

Updates from the Ohio Occupational Therapy Board



Jeffrey M. Rosa, Executive Director

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Board Composition – OT Section

Member	City	Term Expires	Term
Jean Halpin, OT	Westerville	2014	2nd
Becky Finni, OT	Amelia	2013	2nd
Beth Ann Ball, OT	Worthington	2015	1st
Mary Lavey, OTA	Fremont	2015	1st
Kim Lawler, OT	Frazeysburg	2013	2nd

All terms expire on Aug. 27 of designated year. Pursuant to ORC 4755.01, members shall not serve for more than 3 consecutive terms.

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OT Section Vision Statement

- The OT Section is committed to proactively:
 - Provide Education to the Consumers of OT Services;
 - Enforce Practice Standards for the Protection of the Consumer of OT Services;
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Provide Education to the Consumers of OT Services

- Partnership with the Ohio Department of Education
 - School-based therapy issues
 - Appointment of liaison between OT Section and ODE
 - Joint position paper with PT section
- Consumer education pages on Board website
 - Currently being updated
- Facebook and Twitter updates

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Consumer Education

- Each Section of the Board developed informational guides about the professions and the role of the Board for consumers
- Documents available under “Consumer” section of the website
- Licensees are permitted **AND ENCOURAGED** to print copies to make available to clients

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Consumer Information

Ohio.gov State Agencies | Online Services

 Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

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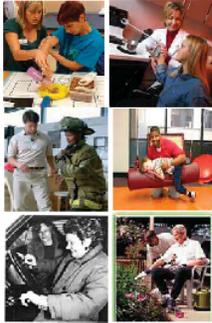
CONSUMER INFORMATION

- What is Occupational Therapy?
- What is Physical Therapy?
- What is Athletic Training?
- Guide to Rule Making Process
- Health Information Privacy - If you believe that a health plan, health care clearinghouse, or any health care provider violated your health information privacy rights or committed another violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy or Security Rule, you can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Civil Rights.

CONTACT

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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY - Consumer Education



Occupational Therapists Practice In...

Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants practice in hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities, homes, education or research centers, schools, hospices, corporate or industrial health centers, athletic facilities, and other community settings.

State of Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board
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What is Occupational Therapy?

Occupational therapy is a client-oriented approach to life skill development. Occupational therapy practitioners use their skills to help individuals prepare for daily living despite impairments, activity limitations, and/or restrictions. Occupations refer to daily activities or tasks that have value and meaning to a person and that are essential to his/her identity. Examples of daily living activities (occupations) are: getting dressed, dialing a phone, using a computer, writing a check, driving a car, work, leisure, fishing, or watching a movie at the mall.

Occupational therapy practitioners use meaningful tasks or occupations to promote and restore function, health, and wellness to people who have experienced a decreased ability to participate in meaningful daily life activities because of developmental delays, physical illness or injury, mental health conditions, or the process of aging.

An occupational therapy practitioner may: devise a substitute method for holding a spoon; help older adults re-engage in activities; teach persons with spinal cord injuries how to use assistive technology; create community programs for people with emotional or mental disabilities; consult with schools to help children overcome writing difficulties and learning challenges; or design, fabricate, and apply a splint for persons with a hand injury to assist in the recovery process.

Choosing an Occupational Therapist

You have the freedom to choose your own occupational therapist. You may go directly to an occupational therapist without a physician's referral OR your insurance may require a visit to a physician first or limit your access to only preferred providers. To find an occupational therapist please contact your health care professional, insurance carrier, or another trusted source.

An Occupational Therapist Is...

An Occupational Therapist (OT) is a health care professional who evaluates and treats activity limitations in all age groups. All occupational therapists practicing in the State of Ohio must hold a valid Ohio occupational therapist license.

An Occupational Therapy Assistant Is...

An Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) is a health care provider who assists and treats in collaboration with and under the supervision of an occupational therapist. All occupational therapy assistants must hold a valid Ohio occupational therapy assistant license.

Visit the Website or Call

Consumers can visit the Board website at <http://otptat.ohio.gov> or call (614) 466-3774 to verify a license or to file a complaint against a licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.

All complaints must be submitted in writing. If you would like to speak with someone about your complaint, please call the Enforcement Division of the OTPTAT Board at (614) 466-3774 and select option 2.

For additional information about occupational therapy, visit the American Occupational Therapy Association website at www.aota.org, or the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association at www.oota.org.

Will My Insurance Cover Occupational Therapy?

Private Insurance

Most private insurance plans cover occupational therapy services. Contact your insurer for specifics regarding your insurance coverage.

Medicaid/Medicare

Not all occupational therapists accept Medicaid/Medicare. When you call to make an appointment, ask if the occupational therapist participates in the Medicaid/Medicare program. Also, obtain information about any co-payments that you may be required to pay.

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Enforce Practice Standards for the Protection of the Consumer of OT Services

- Common Ethical Violations
 - Billing fraud
 - Falsification of documentation
 - Failure to complete documentation
 - Falsifying license/renewal application
 - Aiding/abetting unlicensed practice
- Enforcement
 - Disciplinary action administered by the Section
- Licensure Verification

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Top 4 Reasons for Disciplinary Action

1. Practicing with an expired license or limited permit
2. Practicing prior to being issued a license or limited permit
3. Falsifying a renewal application
 - E.g.: improperly checking yes on the “did you complete your CE” question
4. Failure to complete the continuing education required for renewal.

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Regulate the Profession of OT in an Ever-Changing Environment

- Recent Rules Changes
- OT/OTA Supervisory Ratios
- Jurisprudence Exam update

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How are rules changed?

- Rule review is a public process.
 - Board seeks input from stakeholders on initial draft before rule language is filed.
 - Information on proposed changes sent to listserv and posted on the Board's website.
 - Once filed, full text of the rules is available at: <http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us>
 - Public hearing on proposed changes required.
- Goal for new rules to go into effect on May 1.

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Rules Changes Effective May 1, 2012

- Standardization of the Additional Requirements for Applicants Out of Practice > 5 Years
 - No changes to the list of requirements, just reordering
 - List is same for licensure by exam, endorsement, reinstatement, and restoration
- Reinstatement Application Fee
 - Fee reduced from \$150 to \$100
- Continuing Education
 - Unofficial transcript is acceptable proof of completion for CE

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Rule Change Effective July 1, 2012

■ Escrow Renewals

- Licensee may renew in escrow for no more than 2 consecutive renewal periods
- At the 3rd renewal period, licensee must:
 - Restore to active status, or
 - Let the license expire & reinstate when ready to return to active practice

OT License in Escrow on 7/1/12	OTA License in Escrow on 7/1/12	
Renew in escrow on 7/1/13	Renew in escrow on 7/1/14	1 st escrow renewal
Renew in escrow on 7/1/15	Renew in escrow on 7/1/16	2 nd escrow renewal
Make decision on 7/1/17	Make decision on 7/1/18	Restore or expire

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OT/OTA Supervisory Ratio Rule

- Section started process to review the current ratio rule
- Surveyed OT and OTA licensees
- Reviewed supervision rules from other state OT Boards

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Ohio Jurisprudence Examination

- Formerly known as the Laws & Rules Exam
- Shift to more clinically based format
- New questions piloted at 3 occupational therapy educational programs (Findlay, Zane State, Sinclair)
 - Problem questions identified and modified
- New exam posted to website April 2011

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Regulate Ethical and Multicultural Competency in the Practice of OT

- AOTA Position Paper on Multicultural Competency
- Review of CE requirements for Ethics and Cultural Competency
- Proposed change to CE rule (4755-9-01)
 - Instead of just 1 hour of ethics, require 1 hour of ethics, jurisprudence, or cultural competence

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Regulate the Practice of OT in all Current and Emerging Areas of Service Delivery

- Telerehabilitation
- Consultative Roles
 - Response to Intervention, Mental Health, Ergonomics, Population-driven (versus client-driven) assessments
- Administrative Roles
- Entrepreneurial Opportunities

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Ethical Case Study 1

- An OTA in a school-based setting is told by her manager that the supervising OT has left her position and has not yet been replaced.
- The manager assures the OTA “we will find someone by October, just go ahead and get the students started.”
 - What should the OTA do?
 - Whose responsibility is it to ensure there is supervision?

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Ethical Case Study 2

- A Level II student notices that one of his peers (also in Level II fieldwork) has made very negative remarks about his Fieldwork Educator and Fieldwork site on his Facebook page.
 - How should the student respond?
 - The peer tells you “no one will see it except my ‘friends’”...

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Ethical Case Study 3

- An OT is assigned 4 clients for treatment on Tuesday, all of whom were treated by another OT the day before.
- She notes each client was documented as receiving 60 minutes of individual treatment on Monday, but the treating therapist was only in the building for 2 hours.
 - Is this a problem?
 - How should the OT handle the situation?

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Ethical Case Study 4

- A colleague from your clinic Tweets a picture from their office and you realize a client's chart (and identifying information) is partially visible in the photo.
 - Is this a problem?
 - How should you handle the situation?

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Ethical Case Study 5

- Your employer has repeatedly increased your productivity expectations.
- The level of productivity now required has exceeded the level at which you feel you can competently and effectively perform your job.
 - Is this a problem?
 - How should you handle the situation?

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Ethical Case Study 6

- You have accepted a new position and will be leaving your current facility in 2 weeks.
- What steps must you take to transfer care of your clients prior to leaving?
 - If there is another OT assuming the caseload?
 - If there is no other OT to assume the caseload?

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Ethical Case Study 7

- A client is preparing for discharge home from a skilled nursing facility rehab stay.
- The family requests a home safety assessment prior to discharge.
 - Can the OTA perform the home assessment?
 - What (if any) follow-up/documentation is needed from the OT?

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Ethical Case Study 8

- A newly hired OT at an outpatient clinic is informed by the manager that the prior OT left a significant amount of documentation incomplete.
 - The manager requests that you work with the OTA to get the charts “caught up” with co-signatures.
- How should the OT handle this situation?

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Ethical Case Study 9

- An OTA prepares to treat a client for the first time.
 - In reviewing the chart, he notices the evaluation is not completed, and no goals are listed on the plan of care, although the other OTA has been treating this client for several days.
- How should the OTA handle this situation?

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Ethical Case Study 10

- As a school-based therapist, your professional opinion is that a particular student has met all OT goals and no longer requires OT services.
 - The student's parents object, and demand that OT intervention continue. The principal supports the parents' request.
-
- How should the OT handle this situation?

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Ethical Case Study 11

- A Level II OT student is very excited to try out a new physical agent modality on one of her clients.
 - The Fieldwork Educator/Supervisor is not familiar with the modality.
-
- Can the student perform the modality?
 - What if she was a licensed OTA?
 - Why or why not?

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Ethical Case Study 12

- An OTA wishes to accept a Level II OTA student for fieldwork but her supervising OT is a new grad with less than 1 year of experience.
 - Can the OTA accept the student?
 - What are some alternate solutions to this situation?

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Ethical Case Study 13

- An OT lives in Ohio, but receives a referral for a home health client living in Kentucky.
- Can he provide services to this client via Skype without holding a Kentucky license?

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Ethical Case Study 14

- An OTA develops an idea to provide consultative services to schools for wheelchair-accessible playground design.
 - Can he provide these services?
 - What (if any) type of credentials can he use?

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Ethical Case Study 15

- A female client has expressed that she has cultural preferences to only see female clinicians.
- Your department is staffed by 2 male therapists and 1 female therapist, but the female therapist is on maternity leave.
 - How should you handle the situation?
 - What are your options?

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Ethical Case Study 16

- A client asks about “friending” you on Facebook.
- How do you respond...
 - If they are a current client?
 - If they are a former client?
 - If they are a family member of a current/former client?
- How could this affect you professionally?

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OT Frequently Asked Questions

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Applications OT Jurisprudence Exam

Publications Continuing Education

Minutes & Agendas Useful Links

Laws F.A.Q.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can an occupational therapy assistant (OTA) complete home assessments?

2. What are the caseload productivity standards. Are there caseload requirements for occupational therapy practitioners?

(Category - Transfer of Care)

4. Can an occupational therapy assistant (OTA) perform a discharge summary?

(Category - Role of the OTA)

5. Can an occupational therapy assistant perform a screen?

(Category - Role of the OTA)

6. What is the caseload ratio for school-based therapists?

(Category - School-based Practice)

Answer:
The Ohio Occupational Therapy Practice Act does not regulate caseload levels. It is the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) that establishes the number of students that an occupational therapy practitioner may serve.

Under the ODE rules, OT personnel may serve no more than 50 school age children with disabilities or no more than 40 preschool children with disabilities.

An occupational therapy assistant who provides occupational therapy techniques must do so under the general supervision of an occupational therapist as required in Chapter 4755-7 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

7. What are the supervisory ratios for occupational therapy assistants (OTAs)? Are the ratios different in school-based therapy?

(Category - School-based Practice)

Board Communications

- Each Section has its own listserv
 - To join, go to Board's website and select "Join a Board Liserv" link on the homepage
- "Like" the Board on Facebook at  <https://www.facebook.com/OhioOTPTATBoard>
- Follow the Board's Twitter feed at  <http://twitter.com/OhioOTPTATBd>

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Contacting the Board

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