

Practice Advisory: Services Provided by Students in Fieldwork Level II Settings

Level II fieldwork students may provide occupational therapy services under the supervision of a qualified occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant in compliance with state and federal regulations. When adhering to the principles stated below, along with other regulatory and payer requirements, AOTA considers that students at this level of education are providing skilled occupational therapy intervention.

General Principles:

- a. ~~Supervision of occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant students in Fieldwork Level II settings should ensure protection of consumers and provide opportunities for appropriate role modeling of occupational therapy practice.~~
- b. ~~To ensure safe and effective occupational therapy services, it is the responsibility of the supervising occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant to recognize when supervision is needed and ensure that supervision supports the student's current and developing levels of competence with the occupational therapy process.~~
- c. In all cases the occupational therapist is ultimately responsible for all aspects of occupational therapy service delivery and is accountable for the safety and effectiveness of the occupational therapy service delivery process. This would include provision of services provided by an occupational therapy assistant student under the supervision of an occupational therapy assistant (see Addendum 1).
- d. Initially, supervision should be in line of sight and gradually decrease to less direct supervision as is appropriate depending on the (ACOTE, 2007a.; b.& c.):
 - Competence and confidence of the student,
 - Complexity of client needs,
 - Number and diversity of clients,
 - Role of occupational therapy and related services,
 - Type of practice setting,
 - Requirements of the practice setting, and
 - Other regulatory requirements.

In settings where occupational therapy practitioners¹ are employed:

- Occupational therapy students should be supervised by an occupational therapist.
- Occupational therapy assistant students should be supervised by an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant in partnership with an occupational therapist.

In settings where occupational therapy practitioners are not employed:

- Students should be supervised by another professional familiar with the role of occupational therapy in collaboration with an occupational therapy practitioner.

¹ When the term *occupational therapy practitioner* is used in this document, it refers to both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants (AOTA, 2006).

References:

- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. (2007a). Accreditation standards for a doctoral-degree-level educational program for the occupational therapist. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 61, 641–651.
- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. (2007b). Accreditation standards for a master's-degree-level educational program for the occupational therapist. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 61, 652–661.
- Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. (2007c). Accreditation standards for an educational program for the occupational therapy assistant. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 61, 662–671.
- American Occupational Therapy Association. (2006). Policy 1.44: Categories of occupational therapy personnel. In *Policy manual* (2009 ed., pp. 33–34). Bethesda, MD: Author
- American Occupational Therapy Association (2009). *Guidelines for Supervision, Roles, and Responsibilities During the Delivery of Occupational Therapy Services*. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 63(November/December).

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