
**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY SECTION
BOARD MEMBERS**

Marty Cameron, OT
Columbus

Terri Holland, OT
Columbus
Secretary OT Section

Sally Oberbeck, OT
Dayton

Kimberly Zeidenstein, OT
Youngstown
Chairperson OT Section

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Kimberly Zeidenstein

The Occupational Therapy Section welcomes you to this issue of the OT Outlook. As part of our continued effort to keep the lines of communication open between the Licensure Board and our licensees, the OT Section is pleased to be mailing you this year's copy of our annual newsletter, **OT Outlook**.

This newsletter will provide information about recent rule changes, the results of the OTA supervisory questionnaire and the recently commissioned occupational therapy outcome study. It will introduce you to the Occupational Therapy Section members and the office staff, provide you with an overview of the investigative process, tell you about the Board's Education Conference, and much more.

Since the last newsletter, the Board has revised the rules related to continuing education, has been discussing rule revisions for OTA supervision, and for placing a license into escrow. We gave a presentation at the OOTA Annual Conference, focusing mainly on OTA supervision, and have given presentations at several OT and OTA academic programs. We awarded a \$100,000.00 grant for an occupational therapy outcome study, and provided feedback to the Department of Education on rule revisions regarding occupational therapy practice.

We are working to protect the consumers of occupational therapy services by being actively involved in the investigative and disciplinary process. We have worked to maintain open communication with licensees through the use of advisory committees, surveys, newsletters, presentations, and answering correspondences regarding practice and regulation.

It is our hope that this newsletter will provide interesting and timely information, and can answer any questions and concerns related to the licensure laws and rules.

BOARD MEMBERS



The OT Section of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Licensure Board is made up of five (5) occupational therapists. The members are appointed by the Governor for a three year term. Nominations are sent to the Governor's office by the OOTA, by interested persons, or by other organizations for consideration. The qualifications to serve on the Board include being an occupational therapist who has been engaged in, or actively associated with, the practice of OT in Ohio for at least five years immediately preceding their appointment.

MARTY CAMERON, OT

Marty is from the Columbus area. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nutrition from Cornell University in 1967. She received her Masters of Science in OT from the University of Southern California in 1969. Marty assisted in the drafting of the original OT Practice Act and holds the distinction of being the first licensed OT within in the State of Ohio. She is currently a contract therapist with the Alzheimer's Association of Central Ohio. Her term expires in August of 2003.

TERRI HOLLAND, OT

Terri lives in the Columbus area. She received her OT degree from Wayne State University in 1981. Clinically, her experience includes: hospital-based rehab, geriatric, long term and subacute rehab. Currently, Terri is the Rehabilitation Director for the Laurels of Norworth and Laurels of Worthington Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers. Her term expires in August of 2002.

SALLY OBERBECK, OT

Sally lives in the Dayton area. She received her Bachelor of Science in OT from Tufts University-Boston School of OT in 1966 and a Masters of Science in Allied Health from Ohio State in 1988. She has spent her career working and teaching in community and hospital-based mental health. Her term expires in August of 2003.

KIMBERLY ZEIDENSTEIN, OT

Kim is from the Youngstown area. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in OT from Indiana University in 1981 and a Masters in Health Administration from Xavier University in

1991. Though her primary experience has been hospital based, she currently provides rehabilitation management services in geriatric rehabilitation. Her term expires in August of 2001.

Professional concerns regarding the practice of occupational therapy should be forwarded to the Board office in writing.

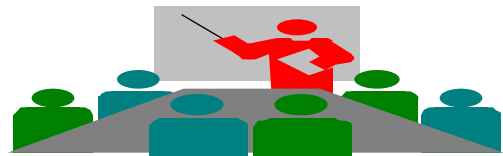
Please be sure to read the laws and rules governing the practice of occupational therapy in the State of Ohio and prior newsletters before forwarding any correspondence to the Occupational Therapy Section.

Please be aware that correspondence must be received at least 72 hours prior to a scheduled Occupational Therapy Section meeting.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2001

(Subject to change)

April 19, 2001	September 20, 2001
May 17, 2001	October 18, 2001
June 14, 2001	November (No Mtg.)
July (No Mtg.)	December 6, 2001
August 7, 2001	



All meetings are open to the public. If you are interested in attending a meeting, please call ahead to verify the time and place. If you would like to address the Section with a concern or question, be sure to contact the Board office to be placed on the agenda.

DID YOU KNOW?

**The OT/PT/AT Board has
15,984 licensed professionals
As of March 7, 2001**

<i>Occupational Therapists</i>	3373
<i>Occupational Therapy Assistants</i>	1968
Physical Therapists	5510
Physical Therapist Assistants	3700
Athletic Trainers	1433

COMPLAINTS

If you wish to file a complaint please write to:

The Occupational Therapy Investigative Committee
77 South High Street 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43266-0317

Please include your name, address, and telephone number. Please note that your cooperation is valued, as the Investigative Committee cannot respond to anonymous complaints.



LICENSE VERIFICATION

The cost to verify your license to another state board is \$30.00. You will save time by sending a cashiers check or money order payable to “**Treasurer, State of Ohio**”. Your request cannot be processed without this fee. The appropriate forms must be enclosed to facilitate processing. Requests should be forwarded to the OTPTAT Board, 77 South High Street 16TH Floor, Columbus, OH 43266-0317. Processing takes approximately three weeks.

Message From The

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This promises to be an exciting year for the profession of occupational therapy and the Licensure Board. We have successfully implemented numerous rule revisions, which will allow Ohio to have a more complete licensure process. We have also revised the application to cut down on the amount of forms new licensees are required to file with the board office.

We now have a new Administrative Assistant, Stephanie Youst, an Ohio University graduate, and Jody Crossley, our new Executive Secretary. Welcome aboard!

Our Home Page, which may be accessed at www.state.oh.us/pyt, has requests for applications for licensure, previous newsletters, links to some of the major organizations affiliated with the OT/PT/AT

Board, and other helpful information. We are proud of our efforts and will continue to develop and improve our organization to meet the demands of consumers and to better serve you. We encourage feedback to assist us with our mission. You may write to us at the address listed on the back of your licensure card or you may E-Mail us at:

mary_jane.langlois@otptat.state.oh.us

The Occupational Therapy Section meetings are generally held on the 31st Floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts located at 77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio. The Section meets every month, except for July and November. (Please see the tentative schedule on page 2.)

We are here to serve you, so, please do not hesitate to contact us at (800) 871-1921.

Again, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Carl G. Williams

CARL G. WILLIAMS, M.P.A.
Executive Director

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY OUTCOME STUDY

In the Ohio Budget of 1999, the state legislature provided funding of \$100,000 to develop a consumer study focusing on occupational therapy outcomes. Starting in January 2000, the Occupational Therapy Section developed the format for a Request for Proposal (RFP) to award the moneys to a group within Ohio to perform this study. In April 2000, over 100 parties received notification of the RFP opening. In May 2000, no proposals were received so the board reopened the process to a “bid.”

In June, two “bids” were received. In July, the Occupational Therapy Section selected one of the “bids.” The recipient was the Ohio State University Foundation under the leadership of Jane Case-Smith, with support of several statewide occupational therapy educators. Jane Case-Smith and her support team will be performing a statewide study from August 2000 until June 30, 2001.

The study will focus on the relationship of occupational therapy services to a patient's final outcome at discharge and three months post discharge. From this initial study, it is the Section's hope that we will develop a database of information that supports the efficacy of occupational therapy practice and that can be used in future statewide research on consumer outcomes.

FUTURE RULE CHANGES UNDER CONSIDERATION

As facility policies and procedures are reviewed yearly, so are the licensure laws and rules. Each year the Section reviews certain portions of the rules to assure that the rule matches the intent of the law. The Section may also review and rewrite other rules if it appears that they are unclear or open to misinterpretations. Four rules are being considered for 2001. First, we are considering what, if any, changes need to be made to the rules concerning OTA supervision. Secondly we are researching and developing ethical standards to be included in the rule section. We are also revisiting the escrow rule and how it relates to continuing education requirements. Finally, we will be addressing the rules and regulations related to investigations so that they comply with recent legislation.

OTA SUPERVISION RULE UPDATE

In 1999, the Section began the process of revising the rules regarding OTA supervision. One concern leading to the decision to revise this rule came from the OT Investigation Committee. Because of third party reimbursement pressures on therapists, OTs were sometimes supervising high numbers of OTAs. Because the law allows OTs to determine the number of OTAs they will supervise, there was nothing to legally keep this from happening. The Section felt that OTs needed some more definitive guidelines to guide their supervisory practices and to help them set limits on unreasonable requests from administrators. However, it was decided that before any rule changes were made, the Section needed to gather as much information as possible and involve many of the "stakeholders". As a part of the Section's information gathering process, Section members researched the laws and rules of other states, invited an Advisory Committee of practitioners and academics to meet with us and provide input and feedback, and a brief questionnaire was sent to all OT and OTA licensees.

Occupational therapy surveys were sent to 3205 occupational therapists and 1883 occupational therapy assistants. The return rate was 43% for both groups. On the whole, both groups were satisfied with the supervision they were providing and getting. Written feedback from both occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants recommended developing supervisory criteria based on the assistants' experience and competency in the practice area. Both groups also felt that productivity standards are severely limiting the time available for supervision, guidance, training and communication, and that this was especially problematic for assistants in their first year of practice.

LICENSURE RENEWAL PROCEDURE

It is important to remember to renew your license. All renewal applications will be mailed by April 20. If you have not received your application by June 1, 2001, please contact the board office. But if it is lost in the mail, or you have moved and have not notified the board office staff, you are still responsible for submitting your renewal form and fee.

*****REMEMBER*****

Last names ending with the letters A-L renew in EVEN numbered years.

Last names ending with the letters M-Z renew in ODD numbered years.

JOINT BOARD

Sometimes licensees are confused because the title of the Licensure Board has three professions listed in it. Many people think ATs and PTs are involved in regulating occupational therapists. This is not the case, however. We are joined for purely administrative reasons, with each doing the business of regulating their own profession independently. However, representatives from each professions' Section, plus a public member, come together as a Joint Board at least three times a year to discuss common issues. Such issues can include finances, office personnel concerns, joint projects and policies. Each Section generally meets 10 times a year separately to discuss the business of regulating their own profession.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The OT Section of the OT/PT/AT Board receives several letters each month requesting clarification and interpretation of the laws and rules relating to the practice of occupational therapy. These letters typically reflect current issues and problems experienced by licensees in the delivery of service. The OT Section can respond to letters that are related to the Laws and Rules Governing the Practice of Occupational Therapy.

Following are frequently asked questions and the Section's response.

Q: *Can occupational therapy assistants perform screens?*

A: It is the position of the Occupational Therapy Section that screens, or identification of candidates for therapy, may be performed by an occupational therapy assistant. The Section interprets a screen to be data gathering and non-evaluative in nature. The occupational therapist interprets the data and makes necessary recommendations. All screens must be co-signed by the occupational therapist, and collaboration with the occupational therapist must be documented.

Q: *Can occupational therapy assistants write discharge summaries?*

A: It is the position of the Occupational Therapy Section that occupational therapy assistants may gather and summarize objective information, however they cannot interpret this data. It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist to interpret and make recommendations for the purpose of discharge plan development, as indicated in Section 4755-7-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code. When collaboration occurs between the OT and the OTA, it must be documented.

Q: *Does an occupational therapy practitioner have to have a physician's order to provide service?*

A: By law, occupational therapists are not required to have a physician's prescription to evaluate or treat patients in the State of Ohio. However, accrediting bodies and reimbursement agencies may require a physician's order for reimbursement.

Q: *Can occupational therapy practitioners use ultrasound and e-stim in their treatments?*

A: Pursuant to (A) (3) of 4755.01, it is the position of the Occupational Therapy Section that occupational therapy practitioners may use physical agent modalities in the provision of occupational therapy services so long as competency is documented and the clinician is practicing within the scope of practice.

Q: *Can occupational therapy assistants do home assessments?*

A: It is the position of the Occupational Therapy Section that occupational therapy assistants may gather objective information during home assessments, however they cannot interpret this data. It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist to interpret and make recommendations. If it is determined that the purpose of home visit is interpretive in nature, the occupational therapist must provide the supervision or perform the home assessment. The occupational therapy assistant cannot be supervised by any other discipline.

Q: *Can a limited permit holder who failed the NBCOT exam apply for another limited permit while waiting to retake the exam?*

A: A limited permit shall expire once the results of the next NBCOT qualifying examination are released. Persons who are not successful in passing the examination shall lose their limited permits immediately and may not re-apply for another limited permit.

Q: *Is NBCOT certification required to renew an Ohio license as on OT or and OTA?*

A: Ohio law does not require that individuals maintain certification or membership through a private organization to maintain licensure in the State of Ohio. Therefore, NBCOT re-certification is not necessary for Ohio licensure, nor is membership in AOTA. Those occupational therapy practitioners choosing not to be rectified by NBCOT should use the following designations. OT/L for occupational therapists and OTA/L for occupational therapy assistants.

Q: *Can OTs assist in the provision of restorative nursing programs?*

A: There is nothing in the Laws and Rules Governing the Practice of Occupational Therapy that prohibit an occupational therapy practitioner from performing

restorative nursing programs. So long as the occupational therapy practitioner is not representing themselves as practicing occupational therapy or billing the services as occupational therapy, he or she would not be governed under the Laws and Rules Governing the Practice of Occupational Therapy. The Section recommends that occupational therapy practitioners investigate Medicare and Ohio Department of Health regulations with regards to the requirements of restorative nursing programs prior to becoming involved in the delivery of this service.

Q: *Can OTs apply prescription topical medications, such as those used in iontophoresis?*

A: An Ohio Attorney General's opinion dated April 20, 2000 prohibits persons who are not specifically authorized by law to administer a medication. Since occupational therapy practitioners were not included in the revisions to House Bill 585, occupational therapy practitioners are not allowed to apply topical medication in the delay of occupational therapy services. It would appear that there is nothing to prohibit the patient from bringing the medication with them, the patient applying the medication during the occupational therapy treatment, and the patient taking the medication with them following the treatment.

TOPICS OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THE OT SECTION

Occasionally, the OT Section receives letters relating to topics that are outside the jurisdiction of the OT/PT/AT Board. In these cases, the OT Section is unable to answer the question of the licensee, but will make every effort to direct the licensee to a helpful source. The following are topics of prior letters to the Section that are outside the jurisdiction of the OT Section.

- Proper use of CPT codes.
- Fees charged and reimbursed for occupational therapy services.
- Medicare requirements relating to billing and reimbursement.
- Medicaid waiver programs.
- Ohio Department of Health requirements for restorative nursing programs provided in long term care.
- Ohio Department of Education requirements for certification.
- Individual personal liability questions.

Occupational therapy professional organizations such as AOTA, OOTA and NBCOT, are available to assist the practitioner in understanding the various regulatory agencies and the guidelines. The Ohio Occupational Therapy Association has a Special Interest Section chairperson that can be very helpful with practice questions relating to billing, coding and other areas outside of licensure laws and rules. Other state agencies such as the Department of Health, Medicaid and the Department of Education can also be a resource of information. The OT Section welcomes questions and correspondence from licensees. However, practitioner's will receive more useful information if their questions are directed to the agency best suited to answer their question.

INVESTIGATIONS AND SPOT CHECKS

In order to protect the public, it is necessary for our enforcement staff to investigate all complaints alleging violations of the laws and rules which govern the practice of occupational therapy. The Enforcement Division works in conjunction with a subcommittee of the Occupational Therapy Section, who make the determination of whether complaints require disciplinary action, or are not a violation of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act.

DID YOU KNOW?

To assure consumer protection, the enforcement staff also conducts random/unannounced "spot checks" of occupational therapy personnel. These visits are a proactive approach to affirm compliance of Ohio laws and rules and include, but are not limited to: verifying the credentials of occupational therapy personnel, reviewing patient documentation of occupational therapy services, verifying proper supervision of unlicensed personnel, and checking the display of wall certificates. Spot check information is reviewed by the Occupational Therapy Investigative Committee each month, and a follow-up letter is sent to the licensee. The Committee takes this opportunity to clarify any misinterpretation of the law, and makes any necessary recommendations for change.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SECTION RULE **CHANGES**

4755-9-01 Continuing Education

The Section has changed the continuing education rule to allow more flexibility and options for getting 20 CEUs. Under "Self-Study" (4755-9-01-1), we now allow 12 hours for formal study packages, such as printed text, videotapes or CD-ROM related to the clinical practice or management of occupational therapy. Online workshops can earn 12 hours if there is opportunity for interaction with the program presenter and the content relates to the clinical practice or management of occupational therapy. Being in a management position no longer earns CEUs.

Remember that neither workshop presenters nor licensees need to have prior approval from the Section for a workshop, seminar or course as long as it meets the following criteria:

1. It contributes directly to professional competency
2. It relates to the clinical practice of occupational therapy and
3. It is conducted by individuals who have demonstrated expertise in the subject matter of the program.

4755-9-02 Waivers; exemptions for continuing education

The Section outlined the requirements and specifications for applying for waivers or exemptions for CEUs. Waivers or extensions may be given for undue hardship, disability or illness.



The most frequently missed question on the licensure exam is, "Do occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants need a physician's prescription in order to practice?" The answer is **NO**. According to the laws and rules, a physician's order is not needed. However, prescriptions are generally required by third party reimbursement and other governing bodies.

OHIO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHYSICAL THERAPY
AND ATHLETIC TRAINERS BOARD
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET 16TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43266-0317

580

