

Board Opinions Board of Occupational Therapy

January 21, 2010

Can a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant supervise students?

The Board decided to support the National Occupational Therapy Guidelines which states:

For Level I fieldwork, a student can be supervised by qualified personnel including, but not limited to, occupational therapy practitioners with initial national certification, psychologists, physician assistants, teachers, social workers, nurses, and physical therapists.

For Level II fieldwork, an occupational therapist can supervise an occupational therapy student as long as the therapist meets state regulations and has a minimum of 1 year of practice experience subsequent to the requisite initial certification. An occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant who meets state regulations and has 1 year of practice experience subsequent to the requisite initial certification can supervise an occupational therapy assistant student.

Can an OT titrate oxygen if a physician order has been written to titrate oxygen; Can an OT turn on/off a concentrator; Can an OT/COTA apply O2 if it's already administered; Can an OT/COTA change O2 application from a wall O2 to a portable tank O2 without adjusting the O2; and Medicare/Medicaid concerns with oxygen administration?

That the task such as insertion and removal of the cannulas and adjustment of the rate of flow as per physician direction and facility guidelines is permitted within the scope of practice of occupational therapy by the occupational therapist and for the certified occupational therapy assistant who has demonstrated competency to the occupational therapist.

Ms. Walsh-Sterup wanted to address that an occupational therapist or certified occupational therapy assistant is not permitted to delegate as a routine task the task of insertion and removal of the cannulas and adjustment of the rate of flow to an occupational therapy aide unless the aide has become a certified medication aide. However, if the facility wants to utilize occupational therapy aides to do this as a routine task, then the aide would have to become a certified medication aide.

August 18, 2009

Whether an OT does the evaluation can a COTA do the treatments?

As long as the treatment plan that is established by the OT is followed, the COTA can do the treatments.

Can an OT serve as a primary coach in the school system for a child that does not have Occupational Therapy as a related service?

The board decided that an occupational therapist can serve as a primary coach as long as the services provided are within the scope of practice of occupational therapy, however in order to ensure the protection of the public, may not cross practice lines.