

COTA Versus OTR Roles in Practice

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	The OT Practitioner	The OTR	The COTA
Standard I. Professional Standing and Responsibility			
delivers OT services that reflect the philosophical base of occupational therapy; is knowledgeable of AOTA standards, policies, and guidelines and state, federal, and other regulatory and reimbursement guidelines; maintains current licensure and certification; abides by the Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics; and abides by the Standards for Continuing Competence	X		
responsible for all aspects of occupational therapy service delivery		X	
responsible for providing safe and effective OT services under the supervision of and in partnership with the occupational therapist			X
maintains current knowledge of legislative, political, social, cultural, societal, and reimbursement issues that affect clients	X		
knowledgeable about and applies evidence to practice	X		
respects the client's sociocultural background and provides client-centered and family-centered services	X		
Standard II. Screening, Evaluation, and Re-evaluation			
responsible for all aspects of the screening, evaluation, and re-evaluation process		X	
accepts and responds to referrals		X	
initiates and directs the screening, evaluation, and re-evaluation process and analyzes and interprets the data		X	
contributes to the screening, evaluation, and re-evaluation process by implementing delegated assessments and by providing verbal and written reports of observations and client capacities			X
uses current assessments and assessment procedures	X		
completes and documents evaluation results		X	
contributes to the documentation of evaluation results			X
recommends additional consultations or refers clients to appropriate resources		X	

Standard III. Intervention			
overall responsibility for the development, documentation, and implementation of the occupational therapy intervention based on the evaluation, client goals, best available evidence, and professional and clinical reasoning.		X	
collaborates with the client to develop and implement the intervention plan	X		
uses professional and clinical reasoning to select the most appropriate types of interventions	X		
selects, implements, and makes modifications to therapeutic interventions that are consistent with the occupational therapy assistant's demonstrated competency and delegated responsibilities, the intervention plan, and requirements of the practice setting			X
modifies the intervention plan and documents changes in the client's needs, goals, and performance		X	
contributes to the modification of the intervention plan by exchanging information with and providing documentation to the occupational therapist			X
documents the OT services	X		
Standard IV. Outcomes			
selecting, measuring, documenting, and interpreting expected or achieved outcomes		X	
documenting changes in the client's performance and capacities and for transitioning the client to other types or intensity of service or discontinuing services		X	
prepares and implements a transition or discontinuation plan		X	
contributes to the transition or discontinuation plan			X
facilitates the transition or discharge process	X		
responsible for evaluating the safety and effectiveness of OT services		X	
contributes to evaluating the safety and effectiveness of OT services			X

AOTA (2010). Standards of practice for occupational therapy. Retrieved from <http://www.aota.org/Practitioners/Official/Standards/36194.aspx?FT=.pdf>

Roles and Responsibilities of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants During the Delivery of Occupational Therapy Services

It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist to determine when to delegate responsibilities to an occupational therapy assistant. It is the responsibility of the occupational therapy assistant who performs the delegated responsibilities, to demonstrate service competency.

The occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant demonstrate and document service competency for clinical reasoning and judgment during the service delivery process as well as for the performance of specific techniques, assessments, and intervention methods used.

When delegating aspects of occupational therapy services, the occupational therapist considers the following factors:

- a. Complexity of the client's condition and needs;
- b. Knowledge, skill, and competence of the occupational therapy practitioner;
- c. Nature and complexity of the intervention; and
- d. Needs and requirements of the practice setting.

Service Competency – determination that 2 people performing the same procedure will have equivalent results

Documentation of Service Competency – It is recommended that the acceptable standard of performance be met on 3 occasions

Reference:

AOTA. (1990). Entry-level role delineation for registered occupational therapists (OTRs) and certified occupational therapy assistants (COTAs). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 44, 1091-1102.

AOTA. (2009). Guidelines for supervision, roles, and responsibilities during the delivery of occupational therapy services. Retrieved from

<http://www.aota.org/Practitioners/Official/Guidelines/36202.aspx?FT=.pdf>