

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES:** Applies occupational therapy treatments to patients\* or assists in their application in a health care facility; does related work as required.

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This is a skilled subprofessional position involving responsibility for assisting an Occupational Therapist in the application of treatment procedures. The work is performed under the direct supervision of an Occupational Therapist who evaluates the patient, develops the treatment plan, and designates treatment procedures to be followed. Patient progress and observations are reported to the Occupational Therapist who modifies the treatment to promote maximum rehabilitative and restorative measures. Supervision may be exercised over the work of assigned Occupational Therapy Aides.

**EXAMPLES OF WORK:** (Illustrative only)

- Carries out occupational therapy procedures by working with patients individually or in groups to provide treatment of an illness or disability and training in the activities of daily living;
- Confers periodically with an Occupational Therapist regarding all facets of patient care and related activities;
- May fabricate and apply splints and assistive devices, trains patients in self-care activities, and uses varied media to improve their physical or mental functioning;
- Prepares and sets up occupational therapy treatment apparatus;
- Participates with other facility personnel in the formulation of patients' total health care plans;
- Supervises Occupational Therapy Aides as directed by the Occupational Therapist;
- Observes, records and reports patients' reactions to occupational therapy treatments and programs;
- Prepares and maintains records of treatment;
- Provides for and observes safety precautions during all phases of therapy;
- Inventories, cleans, stores and maintains supplies and equipment.

**REQUIRED KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

Working knowledge of the principles, techniques and terminology of occupational therapy treatment procedures; working knowledge of occupational therapy materials and equipment and their appropriate application to a variety of patient disabilities; ability to observe, record and report patients' responses to treatment; ability to work effectively with the aged, ill and disabled; ability to plan and supervise the work of others; good physical condition.

**ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:** Certified by the New York State Education Department as an Occupational Therapy Assistant.

\*The term "patient" should be changed to "resident" when position is used in health related facilities.

Agreed to by Municipal Service Division and State Health Department, July, 1976. Based on New York State Hospital Code.