

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT I

### DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

This is skilled work in assisting occupational therapists in evaluation of patients and implementation of a broad variety of occupational therapy programs and treatments in State hospitals, centers, and local agencies.

Employees assist occupational therapists in the assessment, planning and conducting of treatment programs and activities for a variety of patients. The purpose of these programs is to develop and/or improve the patients or clients physical, psychosocial, community skills, pre-vocational, socialization, cognitive, and developmental functioning. Employees assist in the evaluation of patients through the assessment of their physical and cognitive abilities and responses, daily living skills, and fine and gross motor activities. Work may include assisting in group and/or one-to-one activity selection, activity analysis, and implementation. Work requires the employees to evaluate effective responses to treatment as well as conducting treatment using standard modalities. Employees work under close to general supervision of an occupational therapist, but may carry out same routine treatment activities independently as assigned by the occupational therapist.

### EXAMPLES OF DUTIES PERFORMED:

Assist in the evaluation of patients by administering standardized tests, assessing routine anatomical measurements, and coordination, cognitive skills, range of motion, problem solving skills, and attention span. After consulting with an occupational therapists select activity modalities and carry out established treatment procedures.

Independently perform initial activity assessments and observe patient's skills and have input into treatment plans.

Document periodic progress notes and discharge summaries.

Provide information to the therapist regarding the design, administration and evaluation of treatment programs and independently conduct routine activity/treatment programs assigned by the therapist.

Lead patients in activities of daily living skills, self-care skills, pre-vocational, socialization, fine/gross motor, communication, and sensory stimulation activities and provide appropriate interaction to improve psychosocial functioning and adaptive skills.

Assist therapists with conducting perceptual-motor and behavioral programs and reporting patient progress.

Assist in the design, modification and use of occupational therapy devices and adaptive equipment. ,

Provide some training, orientation and demonstration of occupational therapy programs for unit personnel, lower level technicians and volunteers, and students.

Perform related duties as required and assigned by the therapist.

RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities

General knowledge of occupational therapy principles, techniques, methods, modalities and their proper application.

General knowledge of functional anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, physical and mental conditions of patients.

Skill in general fabrication and use of splints and adaptive devices.

Skill in the conducting of standard assessments and treatments.

Skill in gauging patient progress through musculature evaluation, goal attainments and other general patient progress.

Skill in writing patient progress notes.

Ability to instruct unit personnel and lower level technicians in occupational therapist treatments.

Ability to work effectively with patients of various ages, developmental and functional abilities, medical conditions, mental competence and physical disabilities.

Perform related duties as required and assigned by the therapist.

Minimum Education and Experience

Licensed to practice as an Occupational Therapy Assistant in the State of North Carolina.