

**Alberta's Health Regions and Voluntary Organizations and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)**

This classification specification identifies representative responsibilities and duties, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Occupational Therapist I**

Date Updated: **May 20, 2008**

***Job Summary:***

The Occupational Therapist (OT) I is the working level, and sometimes referred to as Staff Therapist, responsible for facilitating the occupational performance process using a client/family-centered model of practice. Through primary activities of assessment, intervention, treatment, consultation, education, and follow-up, the OT I enables the client to perform the activities of daily living that are useful and meaningful to the client/family.

***Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:***

**Core Duties**

- Reviews clinical referrals, accepts, screens, and assesses client needs from an occupational therapy perspective in cooperation with other health disciplines as appropriate (often part of a multi-disciplinary team).
- Develops, plans, implements and provides follow up of occupational therapy services for clients in cooperation with other disciplines in the hospital and community.
- Establishes and maintains effective communication with colleagues, medical staff, and health care practitioners, concerning documentation, client treatment plans, progress and discharge.
- Participates in client/family/caregiver education in conjunction with other disciplines as required.
- Produces and maintains information, documentation and verbal reports to support delivery of Occupational Therapy services, including client charting.
- Operates a variety of monitoring, recording, diagnostic, therapeutic, and associated equipment.
- Fabricates static and dynamic splints to meet patient requirements as needed.

### **Other Related Duties**

- Identifies need for replacement, maintenance or repairs of supplies and equipment.
- Participates in the authorization of Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) equipment and supplies and actively maintains current knowledge of AADL program benefits as appropriate.
- May participate in clinical research, publications and presentations, interdisciplinary projects, and quality improvement initiatives as required.

### **Leadership**

- Assists with orientation and mentorship of new staff as required.
- Serves as a preceptor for Occupational Therapy and other healthcare students.
- Provides collegial/functional guidance to other health care professionals.
- Provides clinical direction to therapy assistant and support personnel.

### **Decision-Making**

- Makes day-to-day clinical decisions regarding assessment, intervention, discharge and follow-up of clients. Clinical protocols guide practice and decisions, but do not provide specific instructions or procedures.
- Takes initial action in response to unusual or complex cases, situations or concerns and attempts to resolve them, refers concerns to an OT II or III, and/or appropriate individual as needed.
- Makes decisions on student activities, workload, and caseload priorities either independently or in collaboration with other therapists/medical staff.

### **Knowledge:**

#### **Education**

- Bachelor of Science of Occupational Therapy/graduation from an accredited university Occupational Therapy Program.

#### **Additional Qualifications/ Designations/ Certification**

- Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) Authorizer status required for some services.

#### **Registration Requirements**

- Registered with the Alberta College of Occupational Therapists (ACOT).

**Working Conditions:**

**Physical Demands**

- Considerable time is spent standing, walking and in close supportive contact with clients.
- Required to bend, pull, lift, perform variable movements and position changes (may be required to assume awkward positions).
- Must be able to transfer and/or assist with lifting adults/children.
- In a community setting, some physical demands with transporting equipment.

**Work Environment**

- Primarily clean, air controlled indoor environments.
- Community, work, home or school visits will have variable conditions including travel in all weather/road conditions.
- Work in home care environments may involve exposure to bodily fluids, chemicals and potential allergens.
- May work alone in client's home environment, posing personal safety challenges/risks.
- May be subject to verbally and/or physically aggressive clients and family.