

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

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, 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 III**

Date Updated: **May 20, 2008**

Job Summary:

The Occupational Therapist (OT) III is the therapist responsible for supervising therapy services or performs a specialist role as a clinical lead responsible for mentoring, promoting standards of practice, responding to clinical questions, coordinating ongoing skill and student development or conducting and/or coordinating major clinical research projects.

Work at the OT III level is differentiated from work at the OT II level by the higher level of supervisory, clinical leadership or research responsibilities.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

In addition to participating in the direct client care/caseload responsibilities of an OT I or II, the OT III:

Core Duties

- Facilitates the development and on-going monitoring of clinical standards of practice for occupational therapy and patient care protocols in the department and/or health region.
- Collaborates with management to support the development, implementation and evaluation of the department's operational plan strategies.
- May coordinate the daily operations of therapy in a service area for clients; monitors care delivery.

or

- Is the clinical or professional practice lead.

or

- Is the principle investigator/facilitator for research.

Other Related Duties

- Establishes policies, procedures, methods and standards through on-going program evaluation.
- Provides or facilitates in-service education.
- Collaborates with therapists and management to develop and maintain educational and clinical manuals.
- Monitors and maintains adequate inventory of supplies and equipment in advance of expected utilization.
- Represents their discipline or program on regional committees.

Leadership

For specialized clinical/professional roles:

- Facilitates specialized program planning, development and evaluation.
- As a clinical or professional practice lead, mentors, promotes standards of practice, responds to clinical questions, and coordinates on-going skills and student development.

For principle investigator/research facilitator roles:

- As a principle investigator/facilitator, may develop collaborative clinical research opportunities with other disciplines.

For on-site leadership roles:

- Supervises and evaluates therapy staff and students.
- Participates in the recruitment, selection, orientation, training and initial stages of disciplines of staff.
- Supervises, coordinates and evaluates delivery of therapy programs and services in several clinical areas.
- Prepares and conducts educational sessions for students, staff, community groups and agencies.
- Coordinates student placements, clinical assignments, rotations and assessment and maintains links with occupational therapy programs in various universities.
- Makes key decisions on appropriate reallocation of staff to meet workloads. Makes long-term recommendations relating to the number of staff required to adequately staff programs.
- Make recommendations for capital and operating budgets.
- Makes independent decisions on the certification, re-certification and assistance to staff on skill upgrades.

Decision-Making

- Creates policies and procedures relevant to delivery of therapy services; leads evidence-based practice.
- Resolves unusual or complex cases or refers concern to appropriate level of management.

Knowledge:

Education

- Bachelor of Science of Occupational Therapy/graduation from an accredited 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 conditions.
- May be subject to verbally and/or physically aggressive clients and family.