

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a professional position involving responsibility for evaluating, planning, and providing occupational therapy treatment to patients in accordance with written prescription or referral from a medical provider who provides medical direction. The incumbent in this class assists in the rehabilitation of patients by providing self-help activities designed to aid the patients' physical function and/or mental response. Incumbents usually work under general supervision. Supervision may be exercised over the work of Occupational Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapy Aides, and clerical employees assigned to the service. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only) Performs occupational therapy procedures upon the written prescription or referral from a physician, utilizing creative activities, which may be manual, industrial, recreational or educational designed and/or adapted to correct or remedy any disability; Evaluates the degree of function and disability of patients unless contraindicated by professional judgment or a physician's notes; Develops a treatment plan based upon the findings, short and long term rehabilitation goals, and in accordance with the physician's diagnosis, prescription, or referral; Records on patients' charts all evaluations, re-evaluations, progress notes, consultations, and discharge summaries; Participates in the selection of personnel in the occupational therapy service, assigns their duties and provides supervision; Fabricates and applies splints; Trains patients in the use of adaptive assistive devices and/or self-help techniques to achieve maximum independence; Participates with other facility personnel in the formulation of patients' total care plans; Confers periodically with a senior level employee, other therapists, and physicians regarding all facets of patient care and related activities; Develops or assists in the development of occupational therapy policies and procedures; Assists in the development of and instructs in the in-service education program; Maintains program records, including but not limited to the service budget, statistical reports of the frequency and types of treatment, and number of patients treated; Attends meetings, training sessions, and conferences.

FULL PERFORMANCE, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of the principles, techniques, and practices of occupational therapy; Good knowledge of the operation and minor maintenance of equipment used in occupational therapy; Working knowledge of community resources available to support or supplement the occupational therapy program; Ability to evaluate, plan and execute treatments for patients; Ability to plan and supervise the work of others; Ability to get along well with others; Good oral and written communication skills; Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Licensed and currently registered by the New York State Education Department as an Occupational Therapist.

NOTE: Possession of a valid New York State driver's license may be required at time of appointment and maintained during employment.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS: In accordance with the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) legislation, Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, candidates for appointment in school districts must obtain clearance for employment from the State Education Department prior to employment based upon a fingerprint and criminal history background check.

Adopted 12/5/78

Reviewed 4/6/01; 3/18/21; 8/20/21

Revised 1/29/18; 6/7/22; 2/17/23