

**DESCRIPTION:** Under limited supervision, performs professional work planning, organizing, delivering or leading one or more therapy services including music, recreational, industrial, motivational or vocational to residents, members, or patients at a 24 hour state facility. Incumbents may assist an Occupational Therapist in providing occupational therapy services to develop and improve vocational/prevocational, recreational, or basic living skills. Incumbents may supervise non-professional and para-professional therapy personnel or coordinate therapy services with para-professional and professional personnel in other departments; performs related work as assigned.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:** (A position is assigned to this class based on the scope and level of work performed as outlined below.)

This class is the third level in the series of five (Aide, Assistant, Specialist, Supervisor, and Manager). This level operates at the skilled level by utilizing independence and judgment to plan, organize, conduct, deliver, and supervise activities and therapy services. Incumbents hired to perform occupational therapy assistant duties work under the direct supervision of an Occupational Therapist.

**EXAMPLES OF WORK:** (A position may not be assigned all the duties listed, nor do the listed examples include all the duties that may be assigned.)

Plans, organizes, conducts, and may lead activities in one or more therapy services.

Assists Occupational Therapist in the assessment of client functioning levels, and design and/or modification of treatment plans.

Provides leadership/supervision to subordinate or other professional personnel in carrying out activities.

Conducts resident, member, or patient assessments and evaluates the client's level of functioning to reflect social needs, abilities, and interests for placement in activity therapy programs.

Attends and actively participates in treatment team meetings to discuss and provide input to resident, member, or patient progress and therapy programs.

Conducts competency based training to facility staff, students, and volunteers regarding Occupational Therapy related services. Training may consist of use of mechanical lifts and application of orthotics and home exercise programs.

Repairs adaptive equipment/orthotic devices under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist. Provides input into requests for durable medical equipment.

Documents resident, member, or patient behavior, compiles progress reports, and maintains necessary records.

Escorts and monitors residents, members, or patients in activities off of the campus grounds.

Oversees the use and care of equipment and supplies used for therapy activities; may perform minor maintenance on equipment.

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May maintain the inventory of equipment and supplies used for therapy activities; may requisition materials as needed.

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES REQUIRED:** (These are needed to perform the work assigned.)

Knowledge of: methods for planning and conducting therapeutic activities; the principles and methods of therapeutic interventions; the fundamentals and rules of various games, sports, and related leisure activities; swimming pool operations; intellectual or other developmental disabilities and gerontology; the State of Nebraska Statutes, Rules and Regulations that govern the practice of Occupational Therapy.

Skill in: delivery of one or more therapy services; working cooperatively with facility personnel; utilizing therapy methods and techniques in carrying out therapeutic activities; communicating with residents, members, or patients and understanding their problems and needs; deterring deviant resident, member or patient behavior; observing, documenting, and evaluating assigned therapy services.

Ability to: form effective therapeutic relationships with residents, members, or patients; obtain and maintain resident, member, or patient interest and participation in activities; instruct residents, members, or patients how to perform an activity; observe and document resident, member, or patient behavior; keep records and compile reports; construct/modify equipment to meet the needs of clients.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** (Applicants will be screened for possession of these qualifications. Applicants who need accommodation in the selection process should request this in advance.)

Post high school coursework with an emphasis in recreation management, music, recreation therapy, occupational therapy, vocational rehabilitation or related field or experience in planning, coordinating, or directing activity or therapy services.

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

Some positions may require graduation from an accredited school for Occupational Therapy Assistants and licensure as an Occupational Therapy Assistant by the State of Nebraska.

Some positions classified to this class may be required to possess a Water Safety Instructor certificate and/or a Swimming Pool Operator's license.

State agencies must evaluate each of their positions to determine their individual overtime eligibility status. FLSA regulations state positions cannot be exempted based on job title; rather the duties and responsibilities of each position must be evaluated by application of FLSA exemption criteria.