

AFSC 42T4, Staff
AFSC 42T3, Qualified
AFSC 42T1, Entry

★OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
(Changed 31 Oct 23)

1. Specialty Summary. Plans, develops, and manages occupational therapy programs and activities. Implements research activities. Provides and conducts training in occupational therapy. Evaluates patients and treats disabilities requiring occupational therapy. Related DoD Occupational Group: 260806.

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

2.1. Plans, coordinates, controls, directs, and evaluates occupational therapy activities. Determines and implements policies and procedures pertaining to occupational therapy programs and activities. Determines requirements for occupational therapy services including staffing, budget, equipment, physical plant design, supplies, and continuing education. Establishes professional care standards and appraises performance levels of subordinates. Coordinates medical facility, educational setting, and integrated operational support occupational therapy programs.

2.2. Executes responsibility for independent management of complex neurologic, neuromusculoskeletal, psychosocial disorders, and behavioral health conditions to include traumatic brain injury, cognitive rehabilitation, and combat stress reactions, within the scope of practice. Fulfills all responsibilities and expectations of medical staff appointment as a highly experienced advanced clinician. Provides examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis, intervention and outcome assessment for inpatients and outpatients. Develops, implements, monitors, modifies evidence-based treatment/rehabilitation programs. Utilizes advanced practice privileges, orders referrals/consultations, diagnostic tests and studies when indicated to expedite care. Maintains caseload and case mix productivity standards as defined by local, Air Force, and Defense Health Agency (DHA) policy, and ensures access to care is within clinic standards. Provides clinical oversight and direction of staff occupational therapists and support staff. Interfaces effectively with members of the professional staff and civilian community providers ensuring coordinated care. Prescribes, fits, and fabricates orthoses and facilitates procurement and instruction in effective use of adaptive equipment and other therapeutic devices including computerized assistive technology. Prescribes limitations in work, sports, school, and activities of daily living; generates written restrictions IAW local standards. Employs electronic systems to document and maintain patient care documentation while ensuring timely coding is accomplished according to local and DHA policy. Directs patients into specific creative opportunities, challenging tasks, work related activities, or competitive outlets. Educates patients and families on therapeutic activities, adaptive/compensatory strategies, and use of equipment.

2.3. Acts as a consultant to the medical staff on occupational therapy matters. Evaluates effectiveness and efficiency of occupational therapy programs and continuing educational activities. Performs required clinical and non-clinical administrative duties. Manages priorities, schedules, and deadlines to ensure temporal, quantity and quality demands of the workload are met. Manages occupational therapy interns; formulates training objectives and develops standards; provides clinical education, training, and mentorship. Instructs occupational therapy support staff in current evidence-based theory and practice of occupational therapy. Provides and develops neuromusculoskeletal injury prevention services, psychosocial management skills, cognitive rehabilitation, and behavioral health programs as needed. Develops, conducts, and participates in clinical research IAW local policy. Plans, conducts, and participates in medical readiness training.

3. Specialty Qualifications:

3.1. Knowledge. Knowledge is mandatory of occupational therapy standards of practice, applied therapeutic modalities, and program management.

3.2. Education. Completion of an accredited program in occupational therapy acceptable to the Surgeon General, HQ USAF, is mandatory. The minimum requirement is an entry-level (or post-professional) master's degree (doctorate is preferred).

3.3. Training. For award of AFSC 42T3, completion of USAF Physical & Occupational Therapy Management Course is mandatory.

3.4. Experience. For award of AFSC 42T3, a minimum of 12 months of experience in an Air Force or Defense Health Agency occupational therapy assignment is required, to include planning, managing, and administering occupational therapy treatments and activities.

3.5. Other. The following are mandatory:

3.5.1. For entry into the specialty, a current, valid, active, and unrestricted state license and registration to practice occupational therapy is mandatory.

3.5.2. For award and retention of AFSC 42T3, a current, valid, active, and unrestricted state license and registration to practice occupational therapy.

3.5.3. ★Must maintain and obtain clinical privileges IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, *Medical Quality Operations* (or be immediately eligible for said privileges if assigned to a non-clinical position.)