



AK OT Scope Modernization Work Group - June 30, 2025
Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Zoom
2025-06-30 13:00 - 15:00 AKDT

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1. Call to Order

Please update your Zoom to Name, City

A. Roll Call

Workgroup Members

Victoria "Tori" Daugherty, OTR - Board Member
Kristen Neville - AOTA
Katie Walker, OTD, OTR/L - AKOTA
Jean Keckhut, OTR/L, CHT
Alfred G. Bracciano, MSA, EdD, OTR/L, CPAM, FAOTA
Kirsten Owen, OTR/L
Audra Yewchin, OTR/L
Sarah Rhodes, COTA
Kathleen Hansen, OTD/OTR/L

B. Review future meeting dates

- ??

2. Public Comment

3. Purpose and Summary of Workgroup - review

A. OT Workgroup Objectives

Develop a collaborative plan to address modernization of our scope of practice between all stakeholders (including the state licensing board, AKOTA, national organizations, and licensees) to create statutory change. Identify needs for change/improvement in the current draft of scope of practice language. Modify the current language to address any needs that the workgroup identifies. Address the role of OTAs in scope of practice language. Develop and updated draft of scope of practice language for future action steps for recommendation to the PHY Board.

B. Completed Topics

- Physical agent modalities
- Feeding, eating, and swallowing
- Pelvic floor and Women's health
- Diagnostic Imaging
- OTA Definition
- Mental health
- Direct access

- Cognitive assessment

4. Review - Statutes vs. Regulations

Statutes (laws) AS 08.84
Regulations (rules) 12 AAC 54.xxx

5. Discussion Topics

A. Review Stakeholder Feedback

- Review AKOTA (stakeholder) feedback from June 16, 2025 meeting

6. Scope of Practice draft language.....3

- Review in its entirety
- Make any final changes if needed

OT Scope Modernization DRAFT Language updated 06-03-2025 without highlighting.docx.....3

OT Scope Modernization DRAFT Language updated 06-03-2025.docx.....6

7. Legislative Plan of Action

- Timeline - Scope of Practices Committee Mtg = June 6
- Meet with AKOTA June 16 for feedback
- PHY Full Board - unknown timeframe
- Soft overall deadline: August 30
- Discuss how we will collaborate between stakeholders to seek out bill sponsorship
- Anyone is welcome to attend Scope of Practices Committee meeting and full Board meeting(s) and speak during public comment period.

8. Action Steps

1. Tori Daugherty to present final draft language to PHY Board for review
2. AKOTA next steps
3. Sponsorship next steps

9. Adjourn

OT Scope of Practice Modernization Work Group

Revised NEW OT Scope of Practice DRAFT Language:

(2) “occupational therapist” means a person who practices occupational therapy; **An Occupational Therapist may evaluate, initiate, and provide occupational therapy treatment for a client without a referral from other health service providers.**

~~(3) “occupational therapy” means, for compensation, the use of purposeful activity, evaluation, treatment, and consultation with human beings whose ability to cope with the tasks of daily living are threatened with, or impaired by developmental deficits, learning disabilities, aging, poverty, cultural differences, physical injury or illness, or psychological and social disabilities to maximize independence, prevent disability, and maintain health; “occupational therapy” includes~~

- ~~(A) developing daily living, play, leisure, social, and developmental skills;~~
- ~~(B) facilitating perceptual-motor and sensory integrative functioning;~~
- ~~(C) enhancing functional performance, prevocational skills, and work capabilities using specifically designed exercises, therapeutic activities and measure, manual intervention, and appliances;~~
- ~~(D) design, fabrication, and application of splints or selective adaptive equipment;~~
- ~~(E) administering and interpreting standardized and nonstandardized assessments, including sensory, manual muscle, and range of motion assessments, necessary for planning effective treatment; and~~
- ~~(F) adapting environments for the disabled;~~

Replace (3) above with:

(3) “occupational therapy” means the therapeutic use of goal-directed life activities (occupations) with individuals, groups, or populations who have, or are at risk for injury, disorder, impairment, disability, activity limitation or participation restriction. Occupational therapists evaluate, analyze, and diagnose occupational challenges and provide interventions to support, improve, and/or restore function and engagement in meaningful tasks and activities. This includes treating pain and/or physical, cognitive, psychological psychosocial, sensory-perceptive, visual, and other aspects of performance in a variety of contexts to support and enhance engagement and participation in occupations that affect health, well-being, and quality of life. Occupational therapy services include but are not limited to:

- A. Evaluation, treatment and consultation to promote or enhance safety and performance in areas of activities of daily living (ADLs), instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), health management, rest and sleep, education, work, play, leisure, and social participation;

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- B. Administration, evaluation, and interpretation of tests and measurements of bodily functions and structures;
- C. Establishment, remediation, compensation or prevention of barriers to performance skills including; client factors (body structures, body functions), performance patterns (habits, routines, roles), performance skills (physical, neuromusculoskeletal, cognitive, ~~psychological~~ psychosocial, sensory- perceptive, communication and interaction, pain), and contexts (environmental, personal factors);
- D. Management of feeding, eating, and swallowing to enable eating and feeding performance;
- E. Design, fabrication, application, fitting, and training in seating and positioning; assistive technology; adaptive devices; orthotic devices; and training in the use of prosthetic devices;
- F. Assessment, recommendation, and training in techniques to enhance functional and community mobility;
- G. Application of adjunctive interventions and therapeutic procedures in preparation for or concurrently with occupation-based activities including but not limited:
 - electrophysical agents
 - thermal, mechanical, and instrument-assisted modalities
 - wound care
 - manual therapy; and
- H. Provide therapeutic interventions to prevent pain and dysfunction, restore function and/or reverse the progression of pathology in order to enhance an individual's ability to execute tasks and to participate fully in life activities.

~~(4) "occupational therapy assistant" means a person who assists in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist;~~

Replace above with:

(4) "occupational therapy assistant" means a person who provides occupational therapy services in collaboration with and under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. An occupational therapist delegates to an occupational therapy assistant selective activities that are commensurate with the occupational therapy assistant's service competence. The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to the evaluation process by implementing the delegated assessments by providing verbal or written reports of assessments to the supervising occupational therapist.

Add new definition in 08.84.190 Definitions,

OT Scope of Practice Modernization Work Group

(8) "tests and measurements" are the standard methods and techniques used to obtain data about the patient or client, including diagnostic imaging and electrodiagnostic and electrophysiological tests and measures.

BOLD and Underlined = adding language to existing statutory language

~~Strikethrough~~ = remove language from existing statutory language

DRAFT

OT Scope of Practice Modernization Work Group

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Highlighted text:

yellow = Diagnostic Imaging

blue = Feeding, eating, and swallowing

red = Pelvic floor and Women's Health

green = Direct Access – this will not necessarily change the practice of private payers

teal = Cognitive Assessment

grey = Dry needling

pink = Mental health; "Psychological" primarily focuses on individual mental and emotional states, while "psychosocial" considers the interaction between an individual's psychological state and their social environment.

- **Psychosocial:** This term emphasizes the interconnectedness of individual psychological processes and social contexts. It considers how social factors, like culture, relationships, and community, influence an individual's psychological well-being and behavior. Psychosocial approaches often explore how social interactions, group dynamics, and environmental influences impact mental health and functioning. While psychological focuses on the individual's internal world, psychosocial acknowledges the broader context of social relationships and environmental influences on that internal world.

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