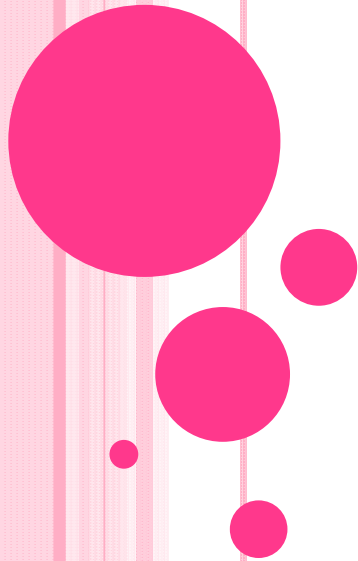


# **ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH**

**Maximizing Home Health Agency service delivery in modern  
day health care**



**By Jane Ryan, LOTR**

# ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH

## How does OT enhance service delivery of the Agency?

- Perform admission visits
- Qualify Medicare patients for **continued** home health eligibility
- Assist in aide supervision and training
- Maximize the value of the HHA services
- Enhance outcomes and OBQI reports
- Improve OASIS accuracy
- Bring specialized knowledge enhancing outcomes for particular patient conditions

Accomplished by having OT as part of the agency's patient care and administrative teams

Used in improving the efficiency of implementation of new administrative requirements and maximizing outcomes for patients



# ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH

- **Occupational Therapy can perform admission visits**

**Medicaid and other private insurances = OT DOES** establish the initial eligibility for home health. The agency can use their OT to conduct that valuable initial visit, especially on rehabilitation only cases.

**Medicare: [Medicare COP] – 42CFR484.55**

OT can conduct rehabilitation-only initial assessment visit and start of care comprehensive assessment when eligibility is established.



# ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH

- **Occupational Therapy does Qualify a Medicare patient for CONTINUED home health eligibility**

**Benefits Policy Manual, Chapter 7, Section 40.24:** Continued need for OT services qualifies a Medicare patient for continued home health services as stand alone service and/or for medical social work services and home health aide needs that still exist.

**Occupational Therapy ALONE** can qualify a Medicare patient for continued Medicare home health services when the patient continues to need OT services only.



# ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH

- **Occupational Therapy can assist in aide supervision and in training of aides to maximize effectiveness and promote patient recovery**

**[COP, 42CFR 484.36]** OT can supervise the Aide when nursing is not part of the plan of care and OT is.

**State nursing law:** LA Register Vol.27, No 12 December 2001, pages 2241 and 2242 states: RN and/or licensed therapist can supervise the Aide and has to partake in the training and in-service of the Aide. Programs that the Aide is required to partake in must be provided to the aide in writing!

**([http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-112/HHA\\_MLS\\_St\\_regs.pdf](http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/publications/pubs-112/HHA_MLS_St_regs.pdf))**



# ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH

- Occupational Therapy involvement maximizes the value of the home health aide services

## **Medicare and LA State Home Health regulations:**

Both these entities regulate that the Home Health Aide CAN do other tasks than just the traditional personal care tasks for the patient.

**Professional Home Health:** NO other agency is utilizing their Aides in other aspects of the overall plan of care to maximize their active part in the service delivery. By using the aide more actively in the OT, PT and ST and Nursing POC's, the person CAN achieve their ultimate functional goals set by the team. This = more referrals, more revenues.

**The Patient/caregiver has another day or 2 in the week to practice all the skills they have been taught by all the team members!**



# ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH

- **Occupational Therapy can enhance outcomes and OBQI reports**

OT = experts in addressing ADL and IADL  
(Instrumental Activities of Daily Living)

OT = trained to analyze demands of an activity

OT = assess performance skills

OT = identify appropriate matches of demands and skills to achieve optimal outcomes in functional skills

OT = accurate assessment of cognitive, psychological and motor aspects of performance within OASIS parameters

OT = tailor appropriate intervention plans to achieve favorable outcomes



# ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH

- **Occupational Therapy participation can improve OASIS accuracy**
  1. Teach ADL and IADL assessment strategies based on OT's unique training and perspective
  2. Promote coordination and consistency by making joint visits with skilled staff to model/share approaches or enhance specific competencies
  3. This = improved interrater reliability and data accuracy on the OASIS functional status items.
  4. OASIS accuracy insures appropriate payment!  
Benefit to Agency and the Patient



# ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH

- **Occupational Therapy brings specialized knowledge that can enhance outcomes for particular patient conditions**
  1. **Diabetic patient:** OT can address vision and sensory loss problems interfering with diabetic management and general safety and independence, by analysing routines and activities within diabetic management, resulting into positive strategies within daily living
  2. **Dementia, Alzheimer's and other cognitive impairments:** OT addresses the person's interaction to their environment and that of the caregiver/family, providing instruction and environmental adaptations to enhance safety, improved ADL management, reduced caregiver burden of improved /non-worsening outcomes in ADL and IADL.
  3. **Medicare recognizes benefit of OT, PT and ST intervention at all stages of dementia. (PM AB-01-135)**



# ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH

- **Occupational Therapy brings specialized knowledge that can enhance outcomes for particular patient conditions**
- 4. **Behavioral Health Disorders:** OT has core knowledge of psychosocial issues and can work with the psychiatric RN's to address the needs of patients with DSM-IV diagnoses. The OT's knowledge of activities help these clients reestablish daily routines, enhance medication compliance, self-management and stress management strategies.
- 5. **Neurological Conditions:** Such as Stroke, TBI, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, etc. OT can improve or maintain/delay worsening of symptoms in all these debilitating conditions. Core knowledge from hand therapy, Assistive technology, Neurodevelopmental techniques, Sensory processing, psychosocial and vision loss strategies makes OT a vital part of the home health treatment plan for these patients and assisting them on their road to independence.



# ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN HOME HEALTH

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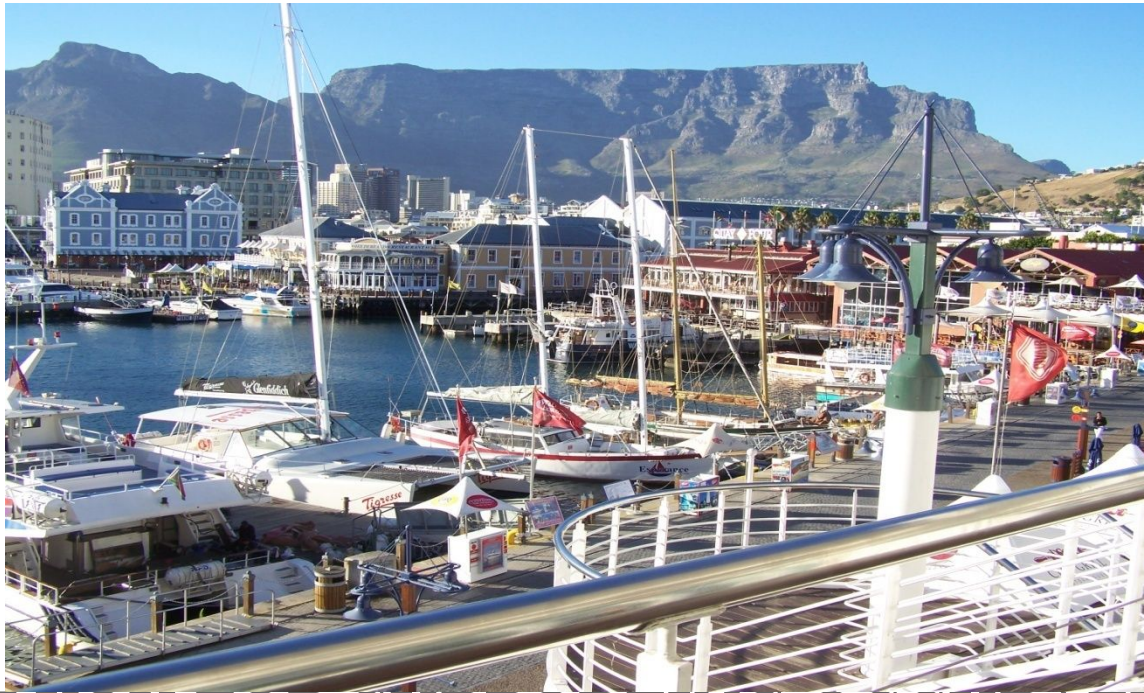
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## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

- Jane Ryan, LOTR
- 2212 Jerlyn Drive
- Denham Springs, LA 70726

**Tel: (225) 252-7517**

**Fax: (225) 665-5638**

**e-mail: [janeot@bellsouth.net](mailto:janeot@bellsouth.net)**

