



Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

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Can another discipline perform audio-visual skyping during evaluations, therapist progress notes, etc. in the skilled nursing setting? (Televisits)

Physical Therapy Section:

Pursuant to section 4755-27-03 (F) of the Ohio revised code, delegation of tasks related to the operation and delivery of physical therapy to other licensed personnel must be done in accordance with the scope of practice of the other licensed personnel's professional license, education and training, the level of competence as determined by the supervising physical therapist, and in consideration of the patient's overall needs and medical status.

Paragraph (G)(1-6) of this rule states that " the unlicensed personnel may be assigned routine duties that assist in the delivery of physical therapy care and operations, such as: (1) maintenance and care of equipment and supplies, (2) preparation, maintenance, and cleaning of treatment areas, (3) transportation of patients, (4) Office and clerical functions, (5) assisting patients preparing for, during, and at the conclusion of treatment, and (6) personally assisting the physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, student physical therapist, and/or student physical therapist assistance while the physical therapist, physical therapist assistant, student physical therapist, and/or student physical therapist assistant is concurrently providing services to the same patient.

Pursuant to section 4755-27-02 (B)(1-5) Physical therapist assistants are not qualified to:

- (1) Interpret physician referrals;
- (2) Conduct initial patient evaluations;
- (3) Write initial or ongoing patient plans of care;
- (4) Conduct re-evaluations of the patient or make changes to the patient plan of care; or
- (5) Perform the discharge evaluation and complete the final discharge summary.

Therefore it is the position of the PT board that it is ideal for the physical therapy to complete physical therapy evaluations, therapist progress notes, re-assessments, re-certifications, and discharges in person. In the event that this is not possible secondary to the COVID-19 pandemic, at the discretion of the physical therapist and based on their comfort level given the patient's case, electronic visits are acceptable with the physical therapy assistant only. Unlicensed personnel including, but not limited to nurses, nursing aides, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, aides, and therapists, are not permitted to participate in physical therapy assessments for public safety reasons.

Occupational Therapy Section:

In this situation, other licensed professionals, such as a physical therapist assistant, would be considered "unlicensed personnel" by the OT Practice Act. Per Ohio Administrative Code 4755-7-01(G), "Unlicensed personnel" means any person who is on the job trained and supports the delivery of occupational therapy services by personally assisting the occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, student occupational therapist, and/or student occupational therapy assistant while the occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, student occupational therapist, and/or student occupational therapy assistant is concurrently providing services to the same client.

Pursuant to section 4755-7-03 (D) of the Ohio Administrative Code states that "unlicensed personnel may only perform specific tasks which are neither evaluative, task selective, nor recommending in nature." Additionally, the occupational therapist must not delegate the following to unlicensed personnel: Performance of occupational therapy evaluative services; Initiation, planning, adjustment, modification, or performance of occupational therapy services; or Making occupational therapy entries directly in the client's official records.

It is the position of the OT Section that it is ideal for the occupational therapist to complete occupational therapy evaluations, therapist progress notes, re-assessments, re-certifications, and discharges in person. If this is not possible secondary to the COVID-19 pandemic, at the discretion of the occupational therapist, and based on their comfort level given the patient's case, electronic visits are acceptable with the occupational therapy assistant only. Unlicensed personnel including, but not limited to nurses, nursing aides, physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and physical/occupational therapy aides, are not permitted to participate in occupational therapy assessments for public safety reasons. This task requires training in occupational therapy and falls outside the scope of unlicensed personnel. Unlicensed personnel are permitted to observe a session for the purposes of professional consultation, coordination, and patient care.