

O.T. Newsletter

A PUBLICATION FROM THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1.

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To contact the Board, call (410) 402-8560, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30p.m., fax (410) 402-8561, write to:
M.B.O.T., Spring Grove Hospital Center, 55 Wade Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21228 or visit our website www.mdotboard.org.

AUDIT NOTICE



Prior to each renewal period, the Occupational Therapy Board randomly selects 10% of the licensee base to be audited for continuing education compliance. These individuals will receive a written notice from the Board to submit continuing education by December 31, 2001 in order to be eligible to renew by June 30, 2002.

The time frame for continuing competency completion is from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2001. This allows the Board sufficient time to audit CEU activity prior to renewal.

Please reference www.mdotboard.org for information on pre-approved activities and courses.

MOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2001 MOTA Annual Conference is being held at Towson University, Towson, Maryland, on November 3 and 4. This is an excellent opportunity to earn pre-approved continuing education credits. Board representatives will be available in the Exhibit Hall on Saturday, 11/3 from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Additional details can be found at MOTA's website www.mdota.org.



ADDRESS CHANGE

Please submit all correspondence and payments to MBOT, Spring Grove Hospital Center, 55 Wade Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21228. The Board's P.O. Box address is no longer available.

ROSTER, DISKS, LABELS



Roster and label requests may now be distributed via email. Request forms can be found on our website www.mdotboard.org. Labels are available in Word 97 format or comma delimited with headers for use in other software applications.

PROPOSED FEE CHANGES

The Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy Practice emergency proposal to revise its current fee schedule has been approved, effective immediately. The Board will continue to be sensitive to the cost of licensure for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants and will make adjustments in the fee schedule if revenue collections exceed expectations.



FEES - effective
8/31/01

OT Renewal (9807)	225
OTA Renewal (9829)	175
Applicatons (9804)	140
Verifications (5922)	20
CCR Reviews (9806)	30
Duplicate License (5925)	0
Reinstatement (9808)	300
HCACC Fee (9834)	34
2nd Temp (8118)	50
Late Fee (9813)	50

FEE EXPLANATION

The following information may be helpful in understanding why the fees are increased or decreased over time.

In 1992, the Board set its original biennial fee at \$100 for occupational therapists.

- Effective 1992, Senate Bill 655 (Chapter 272, Laws of Maryland 1992) was enacted requiring the Board to fund its direct and indirect costs of operation without support from the state's general budget funds.
- Since 1992, collection of fees is the only means by which the Board generates revenue.

- One of the factors on which the Board must determine its fees is:

The total number of licensees in Maryland. (Years in which the Board licenses a low number of licensees mean higher fees for each. Years in which the Board licenses a high number of licensees mean lower fees for each.)

In 1993, the Board's total licensee base was approximately 1600. The Board set its biennial renewal fee at \$250 for occupational therapists. Collection of this fee would be the board's primary source of revenue for its operating costs over the subsequent 2-year period. The Board's annual operating costs were \$280,000.

By 1997, the number of licensees rose to 2000. Because the Board

was collecting a fee from a greater number of people and had a surplus from prior year collections, the Board was able to lower its fees. In 1997 through the present, the renewal fee for an occupational therapist was decreased to \$160.

In addition, in 1997 when the Board lowered its fees, the industry was predicting a 10-year shortage of occupational therapists. The profession was attracting more interested applicants. The Board anticipated its number of licensees would continue to rise.

However, in 1997, as a result of the federal government's Balanced Budget Act, a cap was placed on the amount of money eligible for reimbursement through Medicare. Suddenly, the rehab industry was cutting its need for occupational therapy.

Continued on page 7

Regulation Revisions (10.46)

0.46.01 REVISIONS

The General Regulations section, 10.46.01, of the Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 10, was revised to include authorization for the occupational therapy assistant to supervise an aide as well as clarification on the supervision of students. The changes are as follows:

.03 Supervision requirements

(5) An occupational therapy assistant, under the direction of the occupational therapist, is permitted to BE THE PRIMARY SUPERVISOR FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- a. Aide;
- b. Temporary occupational therapy assistant licensee;
- c. Fieldwork Level I occupational therapy student;
- d. Fieldwork Level I and Level II occupational therapy assistant student.

(6) The occupational therapy assistant may be utilized to facilitate occupational therapy student and occupational therapy assistant student learning experiences in both Level I and Level II fieldwork under the direction of the occupational therapist.

(7) The supervising occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant are jointly responsible for maintaining documentation as set forth in Regulation .05 of this chapter.

These revisions caused modifications to certain definitions as well:

"Aide" means any individual who is not licensed by the Board to perform occupational therapy or limited occupational therapy and provides supportive services to the occupational therapist OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT under direct supervision.

Aide.

- (1) A supervising occupational therapist OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT working with an aide shall provide direct supervision to the aide when the aide is performing tasks within the occupational therapy treatment program.
- (2) An aide shall perform only those tasks which do not require education or training in occupational therapy.
- (3) An occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant working with an aide shall document evidence of in-service training and demonstration of skill competence to assure safe performance of the tasks assigned to the aide.

(4) Prescribed tasks within the treatment program which may be performed by an aide under direct supervision of an occupational therapist OR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT include:

- (a) Transfer practice;
- (b) Assisting in routine:
 - (1) Functional activity,
 - (2) Functional exercise, or
 - (3) Activities of daily living (ADL) program;
- (c) Applying assistive devices;
- (d) Applying adaptive devices;
- (e) Assisting the client with the use of assistive equipment;
- (f) Assisting the client with the use of adaptive equipment;
- (g) Reality orientation for the confused client;
- (h) Assisting the occupational therapist in treatment including, but not limited to:
 - (1) Guarding,
 - (2) Positioning, and
 - (3) Assisting with group and community re-entry.

10.46.06 Competency Requirements for Physical Modalities

The Board has adopted a new chapter in COMAR entitled 10.46.06 Physical Agent Modalities. The purpose of this chapter is to set forth the requirements for applying physical agent modalities as adjuncts to or in preparation for purposeful activity with appropriate training to promote the safe provision of occupational therapy.

The chapter is as follows:

.01 Purpose.

To promote the safe provision of occupational therapy, this chapter sets forth the requirements, including appropriate education, which must be met before applying physical agent modalities as adjuncts to or in preparation for purposeful activity.

.02 Exceptions.

A licensee who is credentialed as a certified hand therapist is exempt from the requirements set forth in this chapter.

.03 Definitions.

The following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

- (1) "Direct Supervision" means supervision provided on a face-to-face basis by the supervisor when delegated client-related tasks are performed.
- (2) "Electrical Physical Agent Modalities" means therapeutic modalities, which induce heat or electrical current beneath the skin, including but not limited to therapeutic ultrasound, iontophoresis, phonophoresis, and electromuscular stimulation.
- (3) "Supervisor" means an individual who has successfully met the competency requirements as set forth in this chapter.
- (4) "Educator" means an individual who has successfully met the competency requirements as set forth in this chapter.

.04 Standards of Competence for Electrical Modalities.

A. Any occupational therapist, or occupational therapy assistant UNDER THE PERIODIC SUPERVISION OF AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST, who wishes to utilize occupational therapy techniques involving electrical physical agent modalities must maintain verification of education, approved by the Board, which covers:

- (1) Principles of physics related to specific properties of light, water, temperature, sound, and electricity;
- (2) Physiological, neurophysiological, and electrophysiological, changes which occur as a result of the application of the selected modality;
- (3) The response of normal and abnormal tissue to the application of the modality;
- (4) Indications and contraindications related to the selection and application of the modality;
- (5) The guidelines for treatment or administration of the modality within the philosophical framework of occupational therapy;
- (6) The guidelines for educating the patient including instructing the patient about the process and possible outcomes of treatment including risks and benefits;
- (7) Safety rules and precautions related to the selected modality;
- (8) Methods of documenting the effectiveness of immediate and long-term effects of treatment;
- (9) Characteristics of equipment including safe operation, adjustment, and care of the equipment; and,
- (10) Application and storage of patient specific pharmacological agents.

B. Competence Requirements.

(1) For this regulation, a licensee must:

- (a) Complete 15 contact hours of continuing education for each specific modality; and,
- (b) Apply a minimum of five patient treatments per modality under direct supervision.

(2) Acceptable education:

(a) Shall include any activity relevant to the practice of electrical physical agent modalities in occupational therapy including:

- (i) In-service education;
- (ii) Conferences;
- (iii) Workshops;
- (iv) Seminars;
- (v) Formal graduate academic education; or
- (vi) Formal undergraduate academic education; and

(b) Shall include a method of evaluating and testing the knowledge of the therapist.

.05 Competence Verification for Electrical Modalities.

A. Each occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant is responsible for maintaining verification of education for electrical modalities.

B. Verification shall include:

- (1) Identification of the specific courses or training where the therapist learned content related to each subject area as specified in Regulation .04(A) of this chapter;
- (2) Proof of education;
- (3) Proof of 15 contact hours of continuing education for each specific modality;
- (4) Certificate of completion;
- (5) An official grade report or official transcript to verify academic education;
- (6) Written verification from the supervisor of five treatments performed applying each specific modality; and
- (7) Additional verification as requested by the Board if deemed necessary.

.06 Superficial Physical Agent Modalities.

A licensee may apply superficial physical agent modalities including, but not limited to, hot packs, cold packs, paraffin, fluidotherapy, and icing.

COMAR can always be referenced by visiting our web site: www.mdofboard.org

FEE EXPLANATION (cont.)

The number of licensees renewing licensure stopped increasing. The growth anticipated by the Board did not occur. The 10-year shortage quickly transformed to a surplus of practitioners.

The Board recognizes that there is seldom support for an increase in fees. We hope that each of you has experienced benefit from the work of the Board. During the past year, some of the Board's accomplishments included:

- Updating the Practice Act;
- Revising 5 chapters of regulation;
- Developing regulations on physical agent modalities;
- Implementing a new licensure database software;
- Launching a web page for 24/7 access to Board resources;
- Establishing a voicemail messaging system for 24/7 access to the Board office; and
- Relocating to less costly office space.

CONTINUING EDUCATION NOTICE

HURRY....TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!!!



There are only approximately 90 days left to complete your continuing education requirements for the June 30, 2002 renewal. (The period for completing education requirements extends from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2001.)

Our website contains a listing of all approved continuing competency programs. If you are interested in a course that is not listed on the site, please complete a pre-approval form from the website and attach the pertinent information.

Remember, all AOTA and MOTA courses are pre-approved by the Board.

Do not forward documentation to the Board unless you have received a written notification of audit. Otherwise, you only need to indicate the number of CEU hours on the renewal application. By signing the renewal, you are attesting to the completion of the required continuing education credits.

A license will not be renewed by the Board unless the continuing education requirement has been met. Licensees who have not met the continuing education requirement within the specified time frame, may request an extension of time to meet the requirement. A request for a time extension must be in writing to the Board, outline a plan for completing the requirement, and must be received by the Board prior to December 31, 2001. The Board has sole discretion in granting/denying extension requests.

REVISED OT BOARD FORMS



Please discard any blank forms/applications you may have filed. Most of the Board's forms have been updated effective 9/01. Please contact the office to request new forms, or access our webpage www.mdotboard.org.

MD BD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER
55 WADE AVENUE
BENJAMIN RUSH BLDG.
BALTIMORE, MD 21228

Important Dates

2001 September 30

- 10% of licensees will receive a written Audit Notice from the Board to submit continuing education documentation by 12/31/2001 in order to be eligible to renew by 6/30/2002.

November 3 & 4

- MOTA Annual Conference @ Towson University

December 31

- Deadline for all licensees to complete continuing education to be eligible for renewal by 6/30/2002.
- Deadline for licensees audited to comply with audit requirements.

2002 March 15 (on or before)

- Receive Renewal Notice from Board for renewal by 6/30/2002.

2002 May 1

- Postmark deadline for timely renewal submissions.

May 2

- Pay late fee for renewal postmarked after May 1.

June 15 (on or before)

- Receive renewed license from Board if application postmarked by May 1.

June 30

- Receive renewed license from Board if application postmarked after May 1.

July 1

- Check your license for expiration date.
- Stop practicing if your license has expired.
- Contact the Board to apply for reinstatement.
- Wait until the 3rd Friday of the month for Board review/approval.