



HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY	
TITLE: Audit of Occupational Therapists Competence and Capacity to Practise Policy	
EFFECTIVE DATE: August 2006	REVIEWED: March 2007, March 2008
BOARD: Occupational Therapists Board of the Northern Territory	

Purpose

This policy has been developed to provide guidance to staff of the Health Professions Licensing Authority, members of the Occupational Therapists Board (the Board) the public, members of the profession of occupational therapy and intending registrants about the Competence and Capacity to Practise Audit.

Introduction

Occupational Therapists practise in a health care environment that is characterised by constant and rapid change. The practice environment is continuously being influenced by advances in science and technology; restructuring of service delivery; increasing demands on fiscal resources, and changing community needs. These changes, coupled with increasing consumer awareness, provide an increased impetus for occupational therapists to continue to develop their knowledge and skills in order to more effectively meet societies needs and to publicly demonstrate competence.

The Board has an obligation to ensure that only those occupational therapists who are competent are issued with registration/enrolment and an annual practising certificate.

The Board commenced competence and capacity to practise audits in 2006. In developing the audit process, the Board consulted widely with other Occupational Therapists Boards, through the Council of Occupational Therapists Registration Boards (COTRB).

Supporting documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Board's Entitlement to Registration/Enrolment/Authorisation to Practise Policy.

Legislative Requirements

10 Functions of Boards

The Board has the following functions:

10(1) (c) to monitor the competence of health practitioners in the category of health care practice for which it is established.

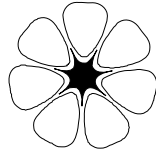
11 Powers of Boards

11(1) A Board has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the performance of its functions.

22 Entitlement to registration or enrolment

22(1)(b) An applicant is entitled to be registered or enrolled in a category of registration or enrolment to which the application relates if the relevant Board is satisfied that the applicant is competent to practise in the category.

40 Practising certificates



40(2) A practising certificate issued to a registered health practitioner is evidence until the due date, or the date determined by the relevant Board, that the health practitioner is authorised to practise in the Territory in the category of registration specified in the certificate subject to the conditions, if any, specified in the certificate.

50 Removal from registers or roll

50 (2) (d) A Board must remove from the register or roll kept by it the name of a person who is no longer entitled to be registered or enrolled.

Ensuring competence and capacity to practise

In line with its function to monitor the competence of occupational therapists the Board will conduct an audit.

The audit will be random in nature, with 22% of all occupational therapists who have full registration/enrolment in the Northern Territory, being requested to provide information to the Board that substantiates the claims they have made on the renewal for registration application.

The audit will be conducted during the renewal and restoration period. Occupational therapists who fail to respond to the audit will not be entitled to practise in the Northern Territory as they will not have a current practising certificate. They will be issued a full refund of the paid renewal fee and their name will be removed from the Register.

Auditees who are currently on leave or who have not practised as an occupational therapist within the last 5 years are advised to contact the Policy and Research Officer for guidance.

A detailed framework has been developed and implemented by the staff of the Health Professions Licensing Authority to support the Audit.

Establishing the due date

Occupational therapists who apply for renewal of their practising certificate during the renewal period who are selected for audit will be issued with a practising certificate with an expiry date of 30 October of that year. This will allow them time to satisfy the requirements of the audit.

Occupational therapists who apply to restore their name to the register that are selected for audit will be issued with a practising certificate with an expiry date of 30 November of that year. This will allow them time to satisfy the requirements of the audit.

Occupational therapists who request an extension of time to comply with the audit will be issued with a practising certificate for a 4-week period. This will allow them time to satisfy the requirements of the audit.

Occupational therapists who successfully comply with the requirements of the audit will be issued with a practising certificate with an expiry date of 30 September of the year following the renewal period.