

## **Position Statement on Occupational Therapy Coordination (2000)**

The New Brunswick Association of Occupational Therapists affirms that a process for agency-wide coordination of occupational therapy services is necessary to ensure effective and efficient provision of occupational therapy services.

The association supports the stance that occupational therapy services should be managed by an occupational therapist. In the absence of an occupational therapist who is fully responsible for the management of the occupational therapy services, the Association advocates that the following items be provided by a designated member of the occupational therapy discipline. To achieve this, the designated therapist should have an agreed upon proportion of time allocated for carrying out the required activities.

The designated occupational therapist should be responsible for:

- Establishing practice standards and ensuring that professional regulations are followed;
- Developing, maintaining and disseminating matters related to practice issues; Addressing profession-specific accreditation standards;
- Managing the clinical aspects of occupational therapy practice;
- Involvement in recruiting, selecting, promoting and terminating of occupational therapy personnel;
- Developing, implementing, and evaluating the vision, mission and scope of practice of occupational therapy services.
- Providing clinical supervision, developing occupational therapy specific quality improvement objectives and providing input into performance appraisals/OT peer review; Facilitating and coordinating the education and supervision of occupational therapists and auxiliary personnel;
- Ensuring that continuing education and professional development of occupational therapists are adequate for the needs of the service;
- Providing input into the budget related to occupational therapy programming;
- Ensuring that statistics for occupational therapy services are reflective of the services provided, having input into annual reports relating to the occupational therapy services; Providing leadership, guidance and a role model for the development of occupational therapists in their discipline;
- Maintaining a bridge for peer support and consultation;
- Ensuring that licensing of all occupational therapy staff is complete;
- Providing a link and a point of contact to other occupational therapists both within and outside the organization

As well as the above, it is essential that occupational therapists have the opportunity to participate at the program level in areas of joint accountability to ensure optimal patient care.