

## We Are All in This Together

### Questions to Consider for OT and OTA Collaboration

An occupational therapist assistant (OTA) works with an occupational therapist (OT) to help provide occupational therapy services. The OT assigns parts of a treatment plan to the OTA, who works under the OT's direction and supervision.


The OT is responsible and accountable for making sure clients receive safe, appropriate, and ethical care. The OT is expected to follow the [Standard for the Supervision of Students and Occupational Therapy Assistants](#) and ensure the ongoing quality of occupational therapy service delivery.

Communication and collaboration between the OT and OTA are key to providing safe and quality service.

The following areas highlight:

- Questions OTs should be prepared to discuss when establishing the supervision and communication plan for each client/patient.
- Questions OTAs may want to ask their supervising OT for information or clarification when working with clients/patients.

#### Questions to Consider:



#### Client Information

- What are the client/patient's primary diagnoses, conditions or precautions, that I should be aware of?
- Are there any physical, cognitive or social concerns?
- What are the short-term and long-term therapy goals for this client/patient?
- What level of assistance does the client/patient need for ADLs, mobility and transfers?



#### Treatment Plan and Approaches

- What specific interventions or treatment activities should I focus on during the sessions?
- How should I modify the plan if the client experiences pain, fatigue, or other complications?



#### Communication & Monitoring

- What are the key signs or symptoms you should watch for during the sessions, and how should I report them to the OT or others?
- What documentation details are most important to include in my notes?
- How should I respond to the client's or family's questions, about specific therapy sessions?



College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario

Regulator of occupational therapists in Ontario

## Resources

- [Standard for the Supervision of Students and Occupational Therapy Assistants, 2023](#)
- Additional resources for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are available through professional associations.

For questions, please contact the Practice Resource Service by emailing [practice@coto.org](mailto:practice@coto.org) or calling 416-214-1177 x240.