



**RANCHO LOS AMIGOS NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER**  
Occupational Therapy and Recreation Therapy Department

**RANCHO LOS AMIGOS**  
NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

**SUBJECT: SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

**Policy No.: 301**  
**Revised: August 2022**  
**Supersedes: January 2020**  
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**PURPOSE:**

To clarify the range of services to be affected by the provision of occupational therapy services.

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of a comprehensive rehabilitation program, occupational therapy provides services to both inpatient and outpatients. Occupational Therapy focusses on the use of occupation (purposeful activity meaningful to the patient) to help the individuals with participation restrictions due to physical and/or cognitive impairments to achieve the level of independence they desire. The occupational therapist serves patients with primarily physical disabilities as well as those who may have cognitive disabilities, psychosocial dysfunctions, developmental or learning disorders, maladaptive behaviors, mental health, and other disorders or conditions.

**POLICY:**

Occupational therapy services shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Evaluating and providing intervention in collaboration with the client, family, caregiver, or others.
2. Developing, improving, sustaining, or restoring skills in activities of daily living (ADL), instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) work or productive activities, and play or leisure.
3. Identifying and facilitating engagement in meaningful and healthy occupations.
4. Developing remediating or resorting sensorimotor (including neuromuscular and visual-perceptual), cognitive, or psychosocial components of performance.
5. Educating the client, family, caregiver, or others in carrying out appropriate non-skilled interventions.
6. Consulting with groups, programs, organizations, or communities to provide population-based services.

Occupational therapy interventions may include:

1. Therapeutic use of individual meaningful and purposeful occupations.
2. Adaptation of environments and processes to enhance functional performance in occupations, including work simplification and energy conservation principles.
3. Promotion of health and wellness through engagement in valued occupations.
4. Graded tasks and activities as prerequisites to engagement in occupations.
5. Design, fabrication, application, training in the use of assistive technology, or orthotic devices and education in the use of prosthetic devices.
6. Application of physical agent modalities as an adjunct to or in preparation for engagement in occupations.
7. Application of ergonomic principles to the performance of occupations.
8. Work-site evaluations and work simulations.
9. Community re-entry.
10. Referrals to other programs and agencies.