Essential Elements of a Comprehensive Initial Evaluation

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Objectives

1. List the five domains of occupational therapy (OT) practice.
2. Correctly select and assign the three OT evaluation codes.
3. Describe the essential elements of an OT evaluation.
Client centered and occupation based
Guides our interventions and outcomes
Articulate distinct value of occupational therapy
Required... 😊
Overview

- OT Practice Framework
- CPT evaluation codes
- AOTA Guidelines for Documentation
- Components of a comprehensive evaluation
OTPF - Process

- Evaluation
- Intervention
- Outcomes

Figure 1. American Occupational Therapy Association. (2014). Occupational therapy’s process.
OTPF - Domain

- Occupations
- Client Factors
- Performance Skills
- Performance Patterns
- Context and Environment

Figure 2. American Occupational Therapy Association. (2014). Occupational therapy’s domain.

- What they are...
- New evaluation and re-evaluation codes in 2017
  - Low Complexity (97165)
  - Moderate Complexity (97166)
  - High Complexity (97167)
  - Re-evaluation (97168)
- Includes new language and clearly articulates content that should be incorporated into every evaluation
  - Occupational profile (and medical history)
  - Performance assessment
  - Clinical decision making
Occupational Profile and Medical History
“Frames the evaluation around the client”

- Occupational profile
  - Occupational history and experiences
  - Patterns of daily living, interests, values, needs
  - Problems and concerns
  - Priorities for outcomes

- Medical and therapy history
  - Prior level of function
  - Presenting diagnosis

Key words
- Brief (low)
- Expanded (moderate)
- Extensive (high)
Performance Assessment
“Identification, Assessment, and Determination of Occupational Performance Deficits”

- Focus on capacities, skills, or potential skills of client related to occupational performance
- Occupations that will be addressed in the plan of care
- Limitations result from skill deficits
  - Physical/motor skills
  - Cognitive/process skills
  - Psychosocial/social-interaction skills

Key words

- 1-3 (low)
- 3-5 (moderate)
- 5+ (high)
Clinical Decision Making
“Consideration of Interrelated Factors Throughout the Evaluation Process”

- Assessment process
- Comorbidities
- Assessment modification
- Selection of interventions

Key words
- Limited (low)
- Detailed (moderate)
- Comprehensive (high)
# CPT Evaluation Codes - Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complexity Level (Code)</th>
<th>Profile/History</th>
<th>Performance Assessment</th>
<th>Clinical Decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low Complexity (97165)</strong></td>
<td>Brief review of medical and/or therapy records relating only to the presenting problem</td>
<td>Identification of 1-3 performance deficits* that result in activity limitations and/or participation restrictions</td>
<td>Analysis of occupational profile, data from problem-focused assessment(s), and consideration of a limited number of a treatment options. No comorbidities present that affect performance. No modifications of assessment tasks needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate Complexity (97166)</strong></td>
<td>Expanded review of medical and/or therapy records with additional review of physical, cognitive, or psychosocial history related to current functional performance</td>
<td>Identification of 3-5 performance deficits* that result in activity limitations and/or participation restrictions</td>
<td>Analysis of occupational profile, data from detailed assessment(s), and consideration of several treatment options. May present with comorbidities that affect performance. Min-mod modification of assessment tasks is needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Complexity (97167)</strong></td>
<td>Review of medical and/or therapy records with extensive additional review of physical, cognitive, or psychosocial history related to current functional performance</td>
<td>Identification of 5 or more performance deficits* that result in activity limitations and/or participation restrictions</td>
<td>Analysis of occupational profile, data from comprehensive assessment(s), and consideration of multiple treatment options. Comorbidities present that affect performance. Significant modification of assessment tasks is needed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AOTA Guidelines - General

- Documentation required whenever professional services are rendered
  - Nature of services
  - Clinical reasoning
  - Indicate safety and effectiveness
- Purpose: Communication
  - Client information
  - Chronological record
  - OT services → improved outcomes
- Types (see right)

![Table 1. Common Types of Occupational Therapy Documentation Reports](image)

Figure 3. American Occupational Therapy Association. (2013). Common types of occupational therapy documentation reports.
AOTA Guidelines - Evaluation Reports

- Referral source
- Data gathered through evaluation process
  - Analysis of occupational performance, including factors that support and hinder performance and participation
  - Identify areas of occupation to address, including selection of interventions and expected outcomes
AOTA Guidelines - Suggested Content

- Client information
- Referral information
- Occupational profile
- Assessments used and results
- Analysis of occupational performance
- Summary
- Recommendations
Bringing it all together...

**OTPF**
- Occupations
- Client Factors
- Performance Skills
- Performance Patterns
- Context and Environment

**CPT Codes**
- Occupational profile
- Performance assessment
  - Physical skills
  - Cognitive skills
  - Psychosocial skills
- Clinical decision making

**AOTA Guidelines**
- Client information
- Referral information
- Occupational profile
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- Recommendations
Proposed Evaluation Template

Client History and Occupational Profile

Analysis of Occupational Performance
- BADLs
- IADLs
- Other: Rest and Sleep, Education, Work, Play, Leisure, Social Participation
- Client Factors and Performance Skills

Summary

Plan of Care
Client History and Occupational Profile

**OTPF**
- Occupations
- Client Factors
- Performance Skills
- Performance Patterns
- Context and Environment

**CPT Codes**
- Occupational profile
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  - Physical skills
  - Cognitive skills
  - Psychosocial skills
- Clinical decision making

**AOTA Guidelines**
- Client information
- Referral information
- Occupational profile
- Assessments used and results
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Analysis of Occupational Performance: Occupations, Client Factors, Performance Skills

OTPF
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AOTA Resources

- Documentation and Reimbursement
  https://www.aota.org/Practice/Manage/Reimb.aspx

- Occupational Profile templates

- “PERFORM” templates for EMR systems
  https://www.aota.org/Practice/Manage/Reimb/perform-template.aspx
References


