

Health requirements

The Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand (OTBNZ) is required to ensure that occupational therapists are able to carry out the functions of their role under section 16(d) of the Health Practitioner Competence Assurance Act 2003.

This information sets out the process the OTBNZ will use to determine if a health or mental health condition prevents an occupational therapist from practising their profession within New Zealand.

The OTBNZ recognises an individual's right for equal treatment under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The OTBNZ will only consider information about physical or mental health conditions that have the potential to prevent the practitioner from carrying out the required functions of an occupational therapist.

Health information

Where a health condition is declared by an applicant they will be required to supply information regarding:

- the diagnosis, and relevant details of the condition/s
- the treatment plan, including the strategies used to manage the condition/s
- the extent to which the health condition impacts on the applicant's ability to practice as an occupational therapist
- where required, a letter/report from the applicant's treating health practitioner

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covering the points above.

The OTBNZ may request further information such as a:

- return to work plan
- reference from a current/previous employer
- current/ proposed job description.

This information is used for the purposes of assessing the applicant's ability to perform the required functions of the role.

Currently registered practitioners

Registered practitioners may be required to consent to a health assessment from an appropriate health professional under s49 or 67A of the Health Practitioner Competence Assurance Act 2003.

Please contact the OTBNZ directly if you require any further information.

email: enquiries@otboard.org.nz
phone: 0800 997 755