



Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand

Kaihaumanu Tūroro o Aotearoa

POLICY ON STANDARD CONDITIONS ON SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Refer - Part 2 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

Background

This policy relates to three categories of applicant for a practising certificate: namely

1. Graduates from a New Zealand programme of Occupational Therapy
2. Graduates from overseas programmes of Occupational Therapy
3. Registered and previously registered occupational therapists who have not practised in New Zealand for three years or more

It outlines the conditions that may be placed on their scope of practice in order to minimise the risk of harm to the New Zealand public, and to maintain or improve the competence of these practitioners to practise within the General Scope of Practice: Occupational Therapist.¹

The Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand (OTBNZ) assesses applications for a practising certificate on a case-by-case basis. The OTBNZ can impose any of the conditions set out in section 22(3) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act) to ensure competence to practise. As there are commonalities between the three main categories of applicant listed above, it has been possible to standardise conditions for these practitioners.

1. Graduates from a New Zealand programme of occupational therapy

Recent graduates, i.e. graduates who apply for registration within 12 months of graduating, are deemed to meet the competence requirements for entry into the profession. Graduates who have not applied for registration within twelve months of graduating, or who have not commenced practice within 12 months of being registered, may be required demonstrate their competence to practise. The following two OTBNZ policies provide information about who needs to demonstrate their competence to practise prior to being registered and/or being issued with a practising certificate:

- 'Registration Policy for Recent NZ Graduates'
- 'Registration Policy for NZ Graduates Applying for Registration More Than 12 Months Following Registration'

Conditions on the scope of practice for new graduates

The scope of practice of new graduates will be endorsed with the 'New Graduate' condition and this will be noted on their practising certificate. An accompanying letter outlining the requirements and conditions specific to their practice as a new graduate

¹ GENERAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE: OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Occupational therapists are registered health professionals, who use a process of enabling occupation to optimise human activity and participation in all life domains across the lifespan, and thus promote the health and well-being of individuals, groups, and communities.

These life domains include: learning and applying knowledge; general tasks and demands; communication; mobility; self-care; domestic life; interpersonal interaction and relationships; major life areas; and community, social and civic life. Enabling occupation incorporates the application of knowledge, principles, methods and procedures related to understanding, predicting, ameliorating or influencing peoples' participation in occupations within these life domains.

Such practice is evidence-based, undertaken in accordance with the Occupational Therapy Board's prescribed Competencies and Code of Ethics, and within the individual therapist's area and level of expertise.

therapist is sent when the practising certificate is issued and must be shown to employers and supervisors.

New graduate practitioners must receive weekly supervision² from a registered occupational therapist for the first 12 months of practice in New Zealand. They must provide a supervisor's report to the OTBNZ which comments on competence in each of the seven core registration competence areas after this time. If the report is satisfactory, the condition will be removed from the scope of practice.

2. Graduates from overseas programmes of occupational therapy

Recent Graduates

Graduates from overseas programmes of occupational therapy applying for registration in New Zealand must complete the online Mauriora *Foundation Course on Cultural Competency*, (available at www.mauriora.co.nz), and submit a competence assessment application.

Applicants who have graduated within the last 12 months, and satisfactorily met the requirements for registration, will be eligible for a practising certificate in the General Scope of Practice: Occupational Therapist subject to the same requirements and conditions on practice as a graduate from a New Zealand occupational therapy programme described above.

Experienced practitioners

Experienced overseas qualified applicants who have satisfactorily met the requirements for registration, will be eligible for a practising certificate in the General Scope of Practice: Occupational Therapist in the General Scope of Practice: Occupational Therapist subject to the 'Overseas Qualified Registrant' condition on their scope of practice. The OTBNZ may vary this condition depending on individual circumstances.

Condition on the scope of practice for Overseas Qualified Registrants

The scope of practice of overseas qualified practitioners will be endorsed with the 'Overseas Qualified Registrant' condition and this will be noted on their practising certificate. An accompanying letter outlining the requirements and conditions specific to their practice as an overseas qualified therapist is sent when the practising certificate is issued and must be shown to employers and supervisors.

Recently registered overseas qualified practitioners must receive fortnightly supervision³ from a registered occupational therapist for the first six months of practice in New Zealand. They must provide a supervisor's report to the OTBNZ which comments on competence in each of the seven core registration competence areas after this time. If the report is satisfactory, the condition will be removed from the scope of practice.

² Part 1, Section 5(1) HPCA Act "supervision means the monitoring of, and reporting on, the performance of a health practitioner by a professional peer"

³ The letter accompanying the practising certificate may specify the type and frequency of supervision required, or any other requirements specific to their practice.

3. Previously registered occupational therapists who have not practised Occupational Therapy in NZ in the last three years.

Some occupational therapists applying for a practising certificate who have previously been registered in New Zealand and who have not worked as an occupational therapist in New Zealand in the last three years, may be required demonstrate their competence to practise; they may need to complete the online *Mauriora Foundation Course on Cultural Competency* and submit a competence assessment application. The OTBNZ's 'Registration Policy for Registered Occupational Therapists Returning to Practice in New Zealand After Three Years' provides information about who is required to demonstrate their competence to practise in this way.

Condition on the scope of practice for practitioners returning to practice

The scope of practice of some returning practitioners will be endorsed with the 'Return to Practice in New Zealand' condition and this will be noted on their practising certificate. An accompanying letter outlining the requirements and conditions specific to their practice as a returning therapist is sent when the practising certificate is issued and must be shown to employers and supervisors.

Practitioners returning to practice must receive fortnightly supervision⁴ from a registered occupational therapist for the first six months of practice in New Zealand. They must provide a supervisor's report to the OTBNZ which comments on competence in each of the seven core registration competence areas after this time. If the report is satisfactory, the condition will be removed from the scope of practice.

⁴ The letter accompanying the practising certificate may specify the type and frequency of supervision required, or any other requirements specific to their practice.