Occupational Therapy Australia



Occupational therapy in residential aged care

Occupational therapists play a key role in supporting the healthy aging of older people in residential aged care. With a focus on reablement and wellbeing, occupational therapists work to prevent functional decline and support ongoing participation in meaningful activities of life.

- Support connection with others by addressing communication and language deficits
- Facilitate opportunities for engagement in meaningful social or leisure pursuits
- Ensure compliance with quality indicators and standards
- Facilitate engagement in meaningful daily activities and occupations
- Environmental risk assessments and prescription of modifications and assistive technologies
- Cognitive and mental health support for wellbeing and to prevent restrictive practice
- Mobility, manual handling and transfer assessments to prevent functional decline and falls
- Multi-disciplinary care coordination to prevent unplanned hospital admissions

Funding options for OT in RACF beyond AN-ACC

Individual Allied Health Services for Chronic Disease Management

A GP management plan and the OT services must be recommended in the resident's multidisciplinary care plan.

Current OT CDM items include:

- Multiple consult items including F2F or telehealth/telephone
- Multidisciplinary Case Conferencing for AHPs
- Additional follow up items for indigenous Australians

Better Access to Mental Health Initiative

A Mental Health Treatment Plan is required

Current OT MBS items include:

- Focused psychological strategies
- Eating disorders services
- F2F or telehealth/telephone

Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA)

From 1st October 2022 DVA will fund allied health services, aids and appliances if not duplicating services received via AN-ACC.

To access an occupational therapist:
Contact My Aged Care **1800 200 422**
Speak to your GP to obtain a referral under Medicare or DVA

To find out more about occupational therapy and to find an OT working with older people near you, visit otaus.com.au/find-an-ot

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