

## D.5: Occupational therapy services

Unit: Disability Services	Effective date: November 30, 2021
Branch: Social Supports	Last updated: November 30, 2021
Procedure number: D.5	Review date: November 30, 2023

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### Purpose

This policy describes the eligibility conditions for clients to access occupational therapy services. Occupational therapy focuses on enabling people to do the things they want and need to do in their everyday lives. Clients who are in stages of transition may benefit from an occupational therapy functional assessment to identify changes in abilities and recommend preventive or corrective action.

Disability Services' occupational therapist conducts incapability assessments for Disability Services clients for the purposes of legal guardianship, when concerns exist about a client's capacity to manage their affairs.

The occupational therapist also participates in and contributes to the diagnostic process for autism spectrum disorder through the Developmental Diagnostic and Support Clinic.

### Policy

1. Disability Services (DS) is committed to principles of early intervention and prioritizes providing occupational therapy (OT) services to the youngest eligible clients and those who have not yet received DS OT services whenever possible.
2. OT services may be provided as clinically indicated, recommended, and as available within the constraints of demand for services.
3. OT services must be directly related to the client's disability.
4. DS may provide an OT functional assessment for clients aged 19 or over when a client's functional abilities may be changing, and require new intervention strategies. Some examples of transitional periods include:
  - moving to a more/less independent living situation; or
  - loss in function due to cognitive decline.
5. DS expects that the client's caregiver will be an active participant in the client's OT program to maximize benefits to the client.
6. OT may conduct incapability assessments for purposes of legal guardianship of a client, when appropriate.
7. DS does not provide funding to clients or caregivers to fund private OT services.
8. DS does not offer OT services to clients eligible for Child Development Centre or Whitehorse General Hospital's outpatient medical rehabilitation services.

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9. Occupational therapists are responsible for creating, administering and monitoring the client's OT program based on the best practices of their discipline.
  10. DS may provide OT services through a contracted OT when in-house services are not available, at DS' sole discretion.
  11. Client may access OT services through Continuing Care, as needed, without causing a duplication of services. DS and Continuing Care OT services focus on meeting different types of client needs.

### Definitions

**Caregiver(s):** A person or persons who are the primary unpaid caregiver of the client and who reside in the same home as the client; they may or may not have legal guardianship over the client.

**Client:** An individual with a disability who receives services from Disability Services.

**Developmental Diagnostic and Support Clinic:** A service provided by Disability Services to provide multi-disciplinary assessment and diagnostic services for autism spectrum disorder for school-aged children and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder for adults.

**Functional assessment:** An occupational therapy assessment that examines a client's ability to perform certain tasks of everyday living, such as preparing a meal, taking public transit, or partaking in an activity, and provides intervention recommendations to address any deficits.

**Incapability assessment report (Form 6):** An assessment conducted by an occupational therapist or an individual's physician regarding the individual's capability to make informed decisions about their own affairs; may assess four domains of functioning: health, personal, legal and financial.

**Occupational therapy:** An allied health profession that helps to solve the problems that interfere with a person's ability to do the things that are important to them, such as self-care, being productive, and engaging in leisure activities.


### Authorities

- Health Act (Yukon)
- Financial Administration Act (Yukon)
- Adult Protection and Decision-Making Act (Yukon)
- Standing Offer Agreement for Counselling and Occupational Therapy Services (Yukon)

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<b>APPROVED BY:</b>		Director, Social Supports
<b>DATE:</b>	2021/11/30	