



PUBLIC AGENDA REQUEST FORM

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Subject: Continuing Education for Occupational Therapy

Issue to Address: WOTAs role as an approval agent for CE opportunities

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020



Continuing Education Quality for Occupational Therapists

WISCONSIN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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SITUATION

OTs/OTAs practice in varied settings with diverse continuing educational needs, currently provide by unregulated providers.

- Occupational Therapy has very broad practice areas, including: traditional medical model, hospital, outpatient, skilled nursing facilities, school systems, mental health, community based, prevention and wellness
- OT Ch. 3. states that OTs/OTAs must obtain 24 CE points every 2 years.
- 12 points must relate to the practice of OT.
- 12 points can “relate to your job.”

This allows for a very broad range of education that OTs can use to meet their 24 points requirement.

PROBLEM

The lack of quality control for OT CE presents a potential patient safety risk.

- OTs currently get their CE from a wide range of unregulated sources.
- OTs CE is based on an honor system that is rarely audited.
- The practice of OTs varies widely, making it difficult to keep track of all potential sources of CE that could apply to practice areas.
- Providers of continuing education already call the WOTA office on a routine basis, asking for advice on how to offer CE and guidance on clinical quality.
- Physicians and Physical Therapists have had an approval process in place for many years, and Occupational Therapy should require an equivalently high standard for its practitioners.

EXAMPLES OF PROBLEMATIC CE:

- Courses without specific **academic objectives** in their descriptions
- OT courses taught by anyone other than an instructor with **masters' level credentials** or higher
- **Essential Oils** classes taught by someone who is not an OT, and does not carry a medical certification
- **Yoga** classes that explain yoga, but do not focus on the "medical or therapeutic" purposes for various stretches
- "**Hobby-style**" classes that focuses on the development of the hobby, without attention to proper hand positioning, etc. for OT purposes

SOLUTION

WOTA becomes an approval agent with the responsibility of evaluating and approving all OT/OTA CE opportunities.

- WOTA will ensure that all CE opportunities are up to date with current practice, high-quality, relevant to the practice of OT, evidence-based, and add to the body of knowledge of the OT profession.
- WOTA will establish a group of OTs/OTAs highly qualified to review the applications and provide the approval.
- WOTA will implement and maintain a CE tracking database (e.g. the CE Locker program used by WPTA) to be used by both licensees and CE providers.
- OTACB will add a requirement to the Ch. 3 Rules for CE, that OTs/OTAs obtain their CE coursework from WOTA approved providers.

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR APPROVAL OF OT/OTA CE OPPORTUNITIES BY WOTA

Requirements for CE Approval

Prospective Provider will submit an application for approval for a specific offering to WOTA via an the WOTA website and pay an application fee.

- **The Application must include the following:**

- Course Description
- Course Objectives
- Time Schedule and Program Content for Each Segment
- Instructor(s) Names, Credentials and Biography
- Course Evaluation Form (to be developed by WOTA)
- Course Fees (See attached Fees)
- List of References (at least 3 current sources to support the material to be presented published within the last 7 years)

- **The Offer must meet the following criteria:**

- Constitute an organized program of learning that contributes to the professional competency of the licensee
- Be evidence-based, drawing on proven research with current within last 7 years with relevant sources listed in the application
- Directly relates to the practice of Occupational Therapy
- Delivered by individuals who are Subject Matter Experts, demonstrated by specialized education, training or experience concerning the subject matter of the offering.
- Fulfills stated goals and objectives.
- Provides proof of attendance by licensees.
- When/If an offering is approved WOTA will issue a unique course approval number.
- WOTA will maintain and make available a list of up-to-date and approved courses.

PT'S MODEL:

Language used in Chapter 9 PT Administrative Code:

"Attendance at seminars, workshops, lectures, symposia, and professional conferences which are sponsored or approved by acceptable health-related or other organizations including the American Physical Therapy Association and the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association."

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/pt/9.pdf#page=2

TABLE PT 9.04

ACTIVITY	CONTACT HOUR LIMITS
(a) Successful completion of relevant academic coursework.	No limit. One semester credit equals 10 contact hours, and one quarter credit equals 6.6 contact hours.
(b) Attendance at seminars, workshops, lectures, symposia, and professional conferences which are sponsored or approved by acceptable health-related or other organizations including the American Physical Therapy Association and the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association.	No limit.
(c) Successful completion of a self-study course or courses offered via electronic or other means which are sponsored or approved by acceptable health-related or other organizations including the American Physical Therapy Association and the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association.	No limit.
(d) Earning a clinical specialization from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties or other recognized clinical specialization certifying organizations.	Up to 12 contact hours for initial certification or for recertification.
(e) Authorship of a book about physical therapy or a related professional area.	Up to 12 contact hours for each book.
(f) Authorship of one or more chapters of a book about physical therapy or a related professional area.	Up to 6 contact hours for each chapter.
(g) Authorship of a presented scientific poster, scientific platform presentation, or published article.	Up to 6 contact hours for each poster, platform presentation, or refereed article.
(h) Presenting seminars, continuing education courses, workshops, lectures, or symposia which have been approved by recognized health-related organizations including the American Physical Therapy Association and the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association.	No limit for the initial presentation. No additional hours are given for subsequent presentations of the same content. Substantive course revisions may be counted, but are limited to the extent of the revision.

CEU LOCKER:

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CEU LOCKER

PROGRAM ADMINS CEU HOLDERS CEU PROVIDERS

CEU Management All In One Place

CEU Application Review & Approvals for Your Industry, plus storage capability for your membership to manage their CEU credits, all online.

Program Admins Get Details Here

Users Register/Login Here

Your CEU Review Stats

- Urgent Course Reviews
- All Pending Course Pending Review
- Total Courses You Have Reviewed
- Total Courses In System

Pending Reviews

ID	Title	Session Class	Status
CEU000001	Health My Course To Teach People	20 Dec 19	Completed
CEU000002	Health My Course To Teach People	20 Dec 19	Completed



Thank you!

The Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association

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