Who is a candidate for VNSNY Occupational Therapy?

Some important questions to ask yourself about your patient’s eligibility for an occupational therapy evaluation:

☐ Does the patient have difficulties performing ADL or IADL (meal preparation, laundry, etc.) tasks and/or transfers?

☐ Does the patient have a neurological diagnosis?

☐ Does the patient have any gross/fine motor coordination impairments?

☐ Does the patient have any cognitive impairments?

☐ Does the patient have any neurological vision impairments such as a visual field cut or hemianopsia?

☐ Does the patient have any low vision impairments brought on by diseases such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, or glaucoma?

☐ Is a home health aide performing some everyday activities where the patient could be more independent with therapy?

☐ Is the patient medically complex?

For information about this service, or to refer a patient, please call VNSNY at 1-866-632-2557.
Conditions and Symptoms for Occupational Therapy

**Orthopedic/Musculoskeletal Conditions:**
- Joint replacements
- Rotator cuff injuries
- Bone fractures
- Deficits in fine motor skills and coordination
- Arthritis/rheumatoid arthritis
- Difficulty with ADLs

**Neurological Conditions:**
- Difficulty with postural control
- Difficulty with motor skills
- Neurological vision impairments
- Perceptual impairments
- Cognitive impairments
- Sensory impairments
- Difficulty with ADLs

**Low Vision:**
- Central/peripheral visual field deficits:
  - Macular degeneration
  - Glaucoma
  - Diabetic retinopathy
- Need for environmental modifications
- Need for equipment evaluation and training
Seating and Positioning Needs:
• Difficulty with postural control
• Difficulty standing up or sitting down
• Difficulty getting in and out of bed
• Need for equipment evaluation and training

Functional Cognitive Conditions:
• Decreased orientation to person, place, or time
• Decreased ability to maintain and/or shift attention
• Decreased ability to recall or recognize information
• Decreased executive function:
  – Ability to initiate/terminate a task
  – Ability to sequence a task correctly
  – Ability to solve a problem
  – Ability to display proper insight, judgment, and safety

Chronic/Acute Conditions:
• History of falling or high risk for falling
• Unable to leave home without considerable and taxing effort:
  – Shortness of breath
  – Fatigue
  – Need for assistive device
  – Need for assistance from another person to leave home
• Need for environmental modifications
• Need for home safety evaluation
• Difficulty with ADLs
Some typical conditions and impairments where occupational therapy is beneficial:

- Physical injury
- Stroke
- Traumatic brain injury
- Brain cancer
- Parkinson’s disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- Joint replacements
- ALS
- Dementia
- Alzheimer’s
- Diabetes
- Arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis
- Amputations
- Severe, long-term, or chronic illness
- Spinal cord injury

Together with Physical Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy from the Visiting Nurse Service of New York can help restore your patient’s ability to meaningfully participate in vital ADLs such as dressing, feeding and bathing. It can also help your patient regain physical, cognitive and visual perceptual abilities in their homes. This interdisciplinary rehabilitation approach can restore overall function and improve outcomes for your patient.

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