



The American
Occupational Therapy
Association, Inc.

Occupational Therapy:
Skills for the Job of Living

Via online submission

July 21, 2008

Katherine K. Wallman
Chief Statistician
Office of Management and Budget
10201 New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Ms. Wallman,

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) represents the interests of more than 100,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students of occupational therapy. We are submitting these comments in regard to the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) - Policy Committee's Recommendations for the 2010 SOC. AOTA appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Committee's recommendations for improving the detailed classifications of occupational therapist and the proposed title of occupational therapy assistant under 31-2000 and related categories including 31-2010 and 31-2011.

AOTA fully supports the recommended change of the title of the classifications in the 200 SOC that referenced Occupational Therapist Assistants to the correct term of Occupational Therapy Assistants. As noted in our earlier comments submitted in 2006, the profession of physical therapy uses the term "therapist assistant", but this term is not used in relation to occupational therapy. Occupational therapy assistant is the term found throughout literature from AOTA, occupational therapy educational programs, state practice and licensure acts, as well as health care payers such as Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance plans. While this may be viewed a small change, it is an important distinction for occupational therapy and will improve the accuracy of the standard occupational classification during this current revision. AOTA appreciates the Committee's inclusion of AOTA's recommendation to correct the title of Occupational Therapy Assistants.

AOTA looks forward to continuing to work with the SOC Policy Committee to ensure that the classifications related to occupational therapy accurately reflect the terms used in the field and the scope of practice for the profession. The SOC is the definitive resource for the definition of workforce related terms and AOTA believes the changes supported in these comments will improve the system and provide more accurate and complete information to the public. Again, AOTA appreciates the opportunity to submit comments related to the revision of the SOC, and is pleased by the Committee's inclusion of our recommended change to the title of 31-2000 and related sections and is available for additional consultation as necessary to ensure the most accurate classification of the profession we represent as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Christina A. Metzler'.

Christina A. Metzler
Chief Public Affairs Officer
The American Occupational Therapy Association

The American
Occupational Therapy
Association, Inc.

4720 Montgomery Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814-3425

301-652-2682
301-652-7711 Fax

800-377-8555 TDD
www.aota.org

