

# Occupational Therapy and the National Guideline Clearinghouse

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In addition to producing high-quality evidence-based practice guidelines for our members, AOTA has always been committed to disseminating this information to other audiences. In 2009, AOTA submitted several practice guidelines for inclusion in the National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC) ([www.guideline.gov](http://www.guideline.gov)), an initiative of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services. The NGC mission is to provide health professionals, health plans, patients, and others with a mechanism for obtaining objective, detailed information on clinical practice guidelines and to further their dissemination, implementation, and use. The NGC defines clinical practice guidelines as systematically developed statements to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances.<sup>1</sup>

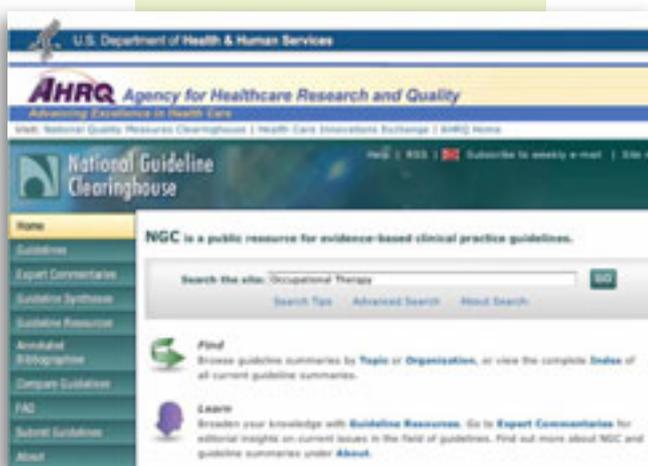
According to Lisa T. Haskell, MS, OTR/L, project manager for the NGC, there are more than 2,500 guideline summaries available on the NGC from nearly 200 guideline developers. Guideline developers include public or private organizations, professional societies, medical specialty associations, health care organizations, health care plans, and government agencies. These organizations include the American Academy of Neurology, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Haskell notes that

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during the guideline development. In addition, the guideline developer must verify that the guideline was developed, reviewed, or revised within the last 5 years. These standards help to ensure that each clinical practice guideline represented on the NGC Web site is current and includes recent and relevant scientific evidence.

Following acceptance into the NGC, a summary of each guideline is posted on the Web site. Components of each practice guideline in the summary include scope of the guideline, methodology of the evidence-based review, recommendations, and the evidence supporting the recommendations. At present, the following AOTA practice guidelines have been accepted and posted on the NGC Web site: *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Alzheimer's Disease and*

*Related Disorders*<sup>2</sup>; *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Children and Adolescents With Autism*<sup>3</sup>; *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Neurodegenerative Diseases*<sup>4</sup>; *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Driving and Community Mobility for Older Adults*<sup>5</sup>; *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Stroke*<sup>6</sup>; *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Traumatic Brain Injury*<sup>7</sup>; and *Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Individuals With Work-Related Injuries and Illness*.<sup>8</sup> Recently accepted but not yet posted on the NGC Web site is the *Occupational Therapy*



the Web site of this publicly available, internationally recognized platform for guideline dissemination receives an average of 250,000 visits per month. Through the NGC, AOTA's guideline summaries are available to a large and diverse audience of health care professionals, payers, policymakers, researchers, and patients.

All guidelines accepted for inclusion in the NGC must meet four main inclusion criteria to ensure they are evidence-based. This includes documented proof that a systematic literature search and review of existing scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed journals was performed

*Practice Guidelines for Children and Adolescents With Challenges in Sensory Processing and Sensory Integration.*<sup>9</sup>

The report *Mile Markers on the Road to the Centennial Vision*, posted on AOTA's Web site ([www.aota.org](http://www.aota.org)), notes the dissemination of evidence-based knowledge as an objective of AOTA's Centennial Vision. In this report, the inclusion of the practice guidelines on the NGC Web site is cited as an accomplishment in the section Linking Research, Education, and Practice. As additional practice guidelines are developed and others are revised to meet the stringent criteria for inclusion in the NGC, AOTA remains committed to providing the best evidence-based practice to all populations receiving occupational therapy services. ■

## References

1. Field, M. J., & Lohr, K. N. (Eds.). (1990). *Clinical practice guidelines: Directions for a new program. Committee to advise the public health service on clinical practice guidelines*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
2. Schaber, P. (2010). *Occupational therapy practice guidelines for older adults with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders*. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.
3. Tomchek, S. D., & Case-Smith, J. (2009). *Occupational therapy practice guidelines for children and adolescents with autism*. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.
4. Forwell, S. (2006). *Occupational therapy practice guidelines for adults with neurodegenerative diseases*. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.
5. Stav, W. B., Hunt, L. A., & Arbesman, M. (2006). *Occupational therapy practice guidelines for driving and community mobility for older adults*. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.
6. Sabari, J. (2008). *Occupational therapy practice guidelines for adults with stroke*. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.
7. Golisz, K. (2009). *Occupational therapy practice guidelines for adults with traumatic brain injury*. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.
8. Kaskutas, V., & Snodgrass, J. (2009). *Occupational therapy practice guidelines for individuals with work-related injuries and illnesses*. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.
9. Watling, R., Koenig, K. P., Davies, P. L., & Schaaf, R. C. (2011). *Occupational therapy practice guidelines for children and adolescents with challenges in sensory processing and sensory integration*. Bethesda, MD: AOTA Press.

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# CALENDAR

To advertise your upcoming event, contact the OT Practice advertising department at 800-877-1383, 301-652-6611, or [otraccads@aota.org](mailto:otraccads@aota.org). Listings are \$99 per insertion and may be up to 15 lines long. Multiple listings may be eligible for discount. Please call for details. Listings in the Calendar section do not signify AOTA endorsement of content, unless otherwise specified.



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## September

### Phoenix, AZ

 **Sept. 10–20**

**Lymphedema Management.** Certification courses in Complete Decongestive Therapy (135 hours), Lymphedema Management Seminars (31 hours). Coursework includes anatomy, physiology, and pathology of the lymphatic system, basic and advanced techniques of MLD, and bandaging for primary/secondary UE and LE lymphedema (incl. pediatric care) and other conditions. Insurance and billing issues, certification for compression-garment fitting included. Certification course meets LANA requirements. **Also in Las Vegas, NV, October 15–25.** AOTA Approved Provider. For more information and additional class dates/locations or to order a free brochure, please call 800-863-5935 or log on to [www.acols.com](http://www.acols.com).

### Manchester, NH

**Sept. 16–17**

**Sensory Connection Program Conference: Using Sensory Approaches for Emotional Regulation and Crisis Intervention.** Instructor: Karen Moore, OTR/L. Learn sensory strategies and environmental interventions for comfort, function, self-regulation, behavioral issues and restraint reduction. Applicable to mental health practice, behavioral programs, adolescent units, schools, VA hospitals and geriatrics. Interactive approach includes latest research on sensory modalities, trauma and evidenced based practice. Register at [www.sensoryconnectionprogram.com](http://www.sensoryconnectionprogram.com) or call (603) 236-2100.

### St. Louis, MO

**Sept. 21–24**

**Envision Conference 2011.** Features clinical education, workshops, and research presentations. The exhibit hall features vendors from all over the country displaying the latest in technology and services in vision rehabilitation as well as book publishers and optometric suppliers. The mission of the Envision Conference is to improve the quality of low vision care through excellence in professional collaboration, advocacy, research, and education. The focus of Envision Conference 2011 will be "Excellence in Research." Register online at [www.envisionconference.org](http://www.envisionconference.org).

### New York, NY

 **Sept. 23**

**Incorporating Low Vision Rehabilitation Into Occupational Therapy.** Instructors: Roy G. Cole, OD, and Yu-Pin Hsu, MS, OTL/R, EdD. Learn to recognize, assess, and address vision problems as part of overall assessment and planning. Topics include interpreting an OD/JMD report or vision diagnosis, applying techniques and tools for evaluating vision function, and incorporating low vision devices into treatment. Participants are trained to use and interpret results of various vision evaluation tools, and have hands-on practice with common low vision devices. At The Jewish Guild for the Blind. Earn .6 CUEs. \$95 discounted rate for AOTA members. Contact [www.sightcare.org](http://www.sightcare.org) or 800-539-4845.

### Indianapolis, IN

**Sept. 24**

**Indiana Occupational Therapy Association Fall Conference and Business Meeting.** Keynote

Speaker Dr. René Padilla, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, LMHP, speaking on Disability, Empowerment and Collaboration on the Road to the Centennial Vision. Other speaker topics: Lymphedema Management, Sensory Approach With Veterans, Evidenced Based Practice Guidelines, Allen Cognitive Level Screen 5, Life Skills Training, School Based Roundtable, Handwriting FUNDamentals, Therapals Network, and Occupational Justice. Poster Presentations with PDU possibilities. IUPUI Campus Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. Visit [www.inota.com](http://www.inota.com) for more information.

## October

### West Haverstraw, NY

 **Oct. 29–30**

**Evaluation & Intervention for Visual Processing Deficits in Adult Acquired Brain Injury, Part I.** Faculty: Mary Warren MS, OTR/L, SCLV, FAOTA. This updated course has the latest evidence-based research. Participants learn a practical, functional, reimbursable approach to evaluation, intervention, and documentation of visual processing deficits in adult with acquired brain injury from CVA and TBI. Topics include hemianopsia, visual neglect, eye movement disorders, and reduced acuity. **Also in Fort Worth, TX January 28–29, 2012.** Contact: [www.visabilities.com](http://www.visabilities.com) or (888) 752-4364, Fax (205) 823-6657.

## November

### Norwalk, CT

**Nov. 5**

**Applying Sensory Integration for Diverse Populations.** Participants will learn to apply Ayres Sensory Integration® to facilitate functional performance outcomes, apply clinical reasoning to cases, and analyze how sensory integration contributes to development. Participants will acquire an innovative strategy for synthesizing assessment data to create occupation-based interventions, make contextual modifications, and communicate with stakeholders. Cost: \$189 (includes handouts, continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks). Earn 6 contact hours. **Instructor: Susanne Smith Roley, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA.** Contact Ivy Sailer, phone 203-365-4771; fax 203-396-8206; email [saileri@sacredheart.edu](mailto:saileri@sacredheart.edu). For more on the event at the Norwalk Inn from 8:30 am to 4 pm hosted by Sacred Heart University's Occupational Therapy Program to benefit the Memorial Christine Busher Award Fund, visit <http://www.sacredheart.edu/OTWorkshop.cfm>

### Grand Rapids, MI

 **Nov. 11–13**

**Eval & Intervention for Visual Processing Deficits in Adult Acquired Brain Injury Part II.** Faculty: Mary Warren MS, OTR/L, SCLV, FAOTA. Continuation of Part I course, this intense hands on practicum teaches participants specifics of evaluation and intervention for visual processing deficits from brain injury including eye movement disorders, hemianopsia, reduced visual acuity, and visual neglect. Contact: [www.visabilities.com](http://www.visabilities.com) or (888) 752-4364, Fax: (205) 823-6657