JULIAN MERCER

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Occupational Therapist with 7+ years at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, progressing from staff therapist to senior clinician in inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation. Skilled at functional assessment, treatment planning, caregiver training, and team collaboration.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Occupational Therapist Jan 2024 - Present
Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, Chicago, IL

- Lead treatment for stroke and brain injury patients in inpatient rehab, with average gains of 15 points on functional independence scores.
- Coordinate weekly team conferences with physicians, nurses, and speech and physical therapists to set discharge goals with patients' families.
- Developed a caregiver training checklist now used by six therapists, and home discharge rates rose from 68% to 76%.
- Supervise two newer therapists and student interns with regular case reviews and documentation feedback.
- Trained the unit on a standardized assessment of daily living skills, improving consistency of initial evaluations.

Occupational Therapist Jan 2022 - Dec 2023

- Evaluated and treated adults with neurological and orthopedic conditions, focusing on dressing, bathing, cognition, and upper-limb recovery.
- Designed treatment plans around each patient's goals and met or exceeded 85% of those goals by discharge.
- Recommended home modifications and adaptive equipment in about 150 discharge plans that reduced early readmissions for falls.
- Documented evaluations and daily notes completely and on time, with chart audit scores above 95%.
- Led a weekly hand therapy and fine-motor group for stroke patients, and grip strength on the affected side improved by an average of 20% over a stay.

Staff Occupational Therapist Aug 2019 - Dec 2021

- Provided OT sessions for a rotating caseload of 8 patients a day under senior guidance, completing evaluations within one day of admission.
- Led group therapy for hand function and meal preparation that improved patient engagement and strength measures.
- Worked with seating specialists to fit wheelchairs and positioning for 40 patients with complex needs.
- Delivered in-service training on splinting and edema management to nursing staff.
- Taught patients and families safe transfers and bathroom techniques before discharge, and teach-back checks showed 95% could demonstrate them correctly.

CORE SKILLS

Functional assessment | Treatment planning | Neurological rehabilitation | Activities of daily living | Cognitive rehabilitation | Upper-limb rehabilitation | Adaptive equipment | Home modification | Caregiver training | Splinting | Interdisciplinary teamwork | Clinical documentation | Epic

EDUCATION

M.S. in Occupational Therapy, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

CERTIFICATIONS

NBCOT Certified OTR | State Occupational Therapy License | BLS for Healthcare Providers