



Occupational Therapy

August 2026

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice in Occupational Therapy. Part of this bulletin draws on content created by Manchester University NHS FT and University Hospitals Dorset NHS Trust

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Published Research

1. An exploration of occupational therapists' uses of sensory approaches with patients in seclusion settings: A qualitative study

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Bowser, Anita;Moffatt, Laura and Maggie Donovan-Hall

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: British Journal of Occupational Therapy , pp. 03080226261464881

Abstract: Introduction: Sensory approaches are increasingly used in mental health settings to support emotional regulation and offer alternatives to restrictive interventions such as seclusion. Occupational therapists are well positioned to deliver these approaches due to their expertise in sensory processing and occupational engagement. However, little is known about their use within seclusion, a highly restrictive environment with risks of sensory and occupational deprivation. This study explored occupational therapists' experiences of applying sensory approaches in seclusion settings. Method: Semi-structured virtual interviews were conducted with occupational therapists working in mental health services where seclusion was used. Data were analysed using thematic analysis. Findings: Six occupational therapists participated. Three themes were generated: navigating risk through creative and flexible practice; occupational therapists as leaders in sensory-informed practice; and ward cultures that can undermine occupational and sensory needs in seclusion. Participants described adapting interventions to balance safety with meaningful engagement, promoting sensory awareness within teams and challenging cultures that prioritised containment over therapeutic input. Conclusion: Occupational therapists play a central role in delivering sensory approaches in seclusion but face environmental, cultural and organisational barriers. Collaborative, whole-team involvement and improved access to training are essential to support safe, consistent, and person-centred sensory practice.; Introduction: Sensory



approaches are increasingly used in mental health settings to support emotional regulation and offer alternatives to restrictive interventions such as seclusion. Occupational therapists are well positioned to deliver these approaches due to their expertise in sensory processing and occupational engagement. However, little is known about their use within seclusion, a highly restrictive environment with risks of sensory and occupational deprivation. This study explored occupational therapists' experiences of applying sensory approaches in seclusion settings. Method: Semi-structured virtual interviews were conducted with occupational therapists working in mental health services where seclusion was used. Data were analysed using thematic analysis. Findings: Six occupational therapists participated. Three themes were generated: navigating risk through creative and flexible practice; occupational therapists as leaders in sensory-informed practice; and ward cultures that can undermine occupational and sensory needs in seclusion. Participants described adapting interventions to balance safety with meaningful engagement, promoting sensory awareness within teams and challenging cultures that prioritised containment over therapeutic input. Conclusion: Occupational therapists play a central role in delivering sensory approaches in seclusion but face environmental, cultural and organisational barriers. Collaborative, whole-team involvement and improved access to training are essential to support safe, consistent, and person-centred sensory practice.

Access or request full text: <https://libkey.io/10.1177/03080226261464881>

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1177/03080226261464881>

2. Enhancing Continuity of Care: The Role of Occupational Therapy in Cardiac Rehabilitation

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Conley, Bailey

Publication Date: 2026

Source: <https://encompass.eku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1083&context=otd-capstone-posters>

3. Learning From Children's Perspectives: Occupational Therapists' Reflections on Their Therapeutic Relationship

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Gagné-Trudel, Sandrine; Therriault, Pierre-Yves and Cantin, Noémi

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy. Revue Canadienne D'ergotherapie , pp. 84174261445814

Abstract: Background In occupational therapy with children, the therapeutic relationship is a fundamental and complex component. However, for a long time, little was known about how children experienced the therapeutic relationship. New findings about children's experiences offer valuable insights for occupational therapists to reflect upon. Purpose This study aimed to explore occupational therapists' perspectives on their therapeutic relationships with children, building on emerging evidence from children's experiences. Method A qualitative interpretive



description design was used, involving four 1-hr online focus groups with a total of 29 occupational therapists from Québec (Canada). Data were analyzed using an interpretive approach outlined by Baribeau to identify emerging themes. Findings Three key themes were developed: (a) the therapeutic relationship is an important process shaped by occupation and collaboration with families and partners; (b) children are often excluded from decision-making and have limited opportunities to share their views within the therapeutic relationship; and (c) the relationship can be improved through strategies such as supporting children's expression of their emotions and perspectives and following their lead. Conclusion The emerging evidence from children's experiences has prompted important reflections among participants. A key reflection concerns the importance of creating space for children's active participation and expression within the therapeutic relationship.

Access or request full text: <https://libkey.io/10.1177/00084174261445814>

URL: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=4add3e7a-4ed4-35d5-812f-8f7c58407ca2>

4. Human-Centered Design in Occupational Therapy Education: A Pragmatic Teaching Strategy

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Holt, Jeana M.;Talsma, AkkeNeel;Taani, Murad H.;Bertram, Heidi L. and Avdeev, Ilya

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: Occupational Therapy in Health Care , pp. 1–13

Abstract: Creative problem-solving and innovative thinking are essential in occupational therapy education. Human-Centered Design (HCD), grounded in constructivist theory and design thinking principles, offers a participatory approach that emphasizes empathy, iteration, and collaboration. This instructional insights article describes a 150-minute experiential HCD workshop integrated into a first-semester Fieldwork Seminar graduate occupational therapy course to enhance creativity and design thinking skills. The workshop was designed using the 5E Instructional model, which emphasizes experiential learning before the introduction of concepts and incorporates reflection to connect new and prior knowledge. The workshop included three key phases: introduction to HCD concepts, paired design challenges, and group prototyping activities using low-fidelity materials. Facilitators guided students through the empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and feedback phases, incorporating structured reflection to connect learning to practice. Quantitative outcomes showed gains in creative self-efficacy, psychological empowerment, and design-thinking skills. Qualitative reflections revealed stronger creative confidence, appreciation for collaboration, and intentions to use HCD in future practice. Findings suggest that brief, immersive learning meaningfully enhances engagement and skill development, supporting the value of integrating HCD into occupational therapy education. Educators should prioritize hands-on, collaborative activities and reflective practice, while future research should explore long-term impacts and broader curricular integration.

Access or request full text: <https://libkey.io/10.1080/07380577.2026.2702546>



URL: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=0733ccbb-c137-3a76-95ca-5bd8014094b9>

5. Critical thinking in occupational therapy education: A mixed-methods study

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Irvine-Brown, Laura;Malfitano, Ana;Campbell, Shawna Mastro;Di Tommaso, Amelia and Farias, Lisette

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: Australian Occupational Therapy Journal 73(4), pp. e70108

Abstract: Abstract Introduction Critical thinking is widely recognised as essential for occupational therapy education and practice, yet its conceptualisation, teaching, and assessment remain inconsistent across international contexts. Existing literature highlights a lack of clarity regarding effective pedagogical approaches and a limited understanding of how educators make sense of critical thinking within occupational therapy curricula. This study examined how occupational therapy educators across different countries conceptualise critical thinking and how it features in the programmes they teach. Methods A convergent mixed-methods design was used. Occupational therapy educators completed an online survey (available in Spanish, Portuguese, and English) containing 28 quantitative items and six open-ended qualitative questions. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics, and group comparisons were made using the Kruskal-Wallis and Dunn tests. Qualitative data underwent inductive content analysis within language groups and were later synthesised across datasets through reflexive, collaborative analysis. Consumer and Community Involvement No consumers were involved in the study conceptualisation or analysis. Results Responses revealed a spectrum of conceptualisations of critical thinking, ranging from concrete, pragmatic, and clinically focused understandings to abstract, socially oriented, and transformative perspectives. English-language responses tended to emphasise clinical reasoning, evidence use, and decision-making, whereas Portuguese and Spanish responses more strongly foregrounded reflection on knowledge, sociopolitical structures, and critical action. Teaching practices mirrored this spectrum: Critical thinking was taught unevenly across curricula, most commonly within clinical reasoning or foundational occupational therapy subjects, with fewer programmes explicitly addressing broader sociocultural or transformative dimensions. Conclusion Findings highlight significant epistemological variation shaping how critical thinking is conceptualised and enacted in occupational therapy education. Recognising these epistemological foundations, rather than seeking a universal definition, may support more intentional, inclusive, and socially responsive curriculum design.

Access or request full text: <https://libkey.io/10.1111/1440-1630.70108>

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1111/1440-1630.70108>

6. The Suitcase Packing Activity: A Novel Outcome Measure for Individuals With Upper Limb Loss

Item Type: Journal Article



Authors: Paulus, Paige; Lee Childers, W. and Pontillo, Marisa

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy , pp. 19437676261464069

Abstract: Importance Poor prosthetic satisfaction in individuals with upper limb loss has been linked to delayed or nonspecific rehabilitation. The Suitcase Packing Activity (SPA) is a functional outcome measure which has been validated in healthy individuals and assesses bimanual and unilateral upper limb function through a goal-directed task. Objective To validate the SPA by investigating the relationship between SPA scores and patient-reported outcomes (PROs). Design Cross-sectional cohort study. Setting Military treatment facilities, community events, and prosthetic clinics. Participants Individuals over the age of 18 with major upper limb loss or limb difference who could speak/read English. Outcomes and Measures Participants completed the SPA and questionnaires on patient characteristics, Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS?), and Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand (DASH). SPA categories are time, accuracy, and efficiency. Pearson correlations evaluated relationships between SPA subscales and continuous variables. Linear regression determined if DASH score and age could predict SPA scores. Commonality analyses determined the unique, common, and total variance of SPA subscales explained by predictor variables. Results Twenty-nine individuals with upper limb loss and limb difference (18?M, age:37.8? $\pm$?12.0, time since amputation:15.7? $\pm$?14.7years) participated in this study. Age, PROMIS? Social Subscale, and DASH were associated with SPA scores. Age and DASH predicted SPA Time and Efficiency. Conclusions and Relevance SPA scores align with better PRO scores and demonstrate that the SPA has sufficient concurrent validity to evaluate function in patients with limb loss. Further investigation is warranted to use this measure to compare baseline function or changes over time. Plain Language Summary Individuals with upper limb loss and limb difference often need to adapt and use creative strategies to perform activities of daily living. The findings from this study indicate that the SPA may be a useful tool for occupational therapists to evaluate their patients? abilities to perform salient tasks, such as packing a suitcase, even if they are using unique strategies to perform that task.; Importance Poor prosthetic satisfaction in individuals with upper limb loss has been linked to delayed or nonspecific rehabilitation. The Suitcase Packing Activity (SPA) is a functional outcome measure which has been validated in healthy individuals and assesses bimanual and unilateral upper limb function through a goal-directed task. Objective To validate the SPA by investigating the relationship between SPA scores and patient-reported outcomes (PROs). Design Cross-sectional cohort study. Setting Military treatment facilities, community events, and prosthetic clinics. Participants Individuals over the age of 18 with major upper limb loss or limb difference who could speak/read English. Outcomes and Measures Participants completed the SPA and questionnaires on patient characteristics, Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS?), and Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand (DASH). SPA categories are time, accuracy, and efficiency. Pearson correlations evaluated relationships between SPA subscales and continuous variables. Linear regression determined if DASH score and age could predict SPA scores. Commonality analyses determined the unique, common, and total variance of SPA subscales explained by predictor variables. Results Twenty-nine individuals with upper limb loss and limb difference (18?M, age:37.8? $\pm$?12.0, time since amputation:15.7? $\pm$?14.7years) participated in this study. Age, PROMIS? Social Subscale, and DASH were associated with SPA scores. Age and DASH predicted SPA Time and Efficiency. Conclusions and Relevance SPA scores align with better PRO scores and demonstrate that the SPA has sufficient concurrent validity to evaluate function in patients



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7. Artificial intelligence in occupational therapy: Democratising expertise or deepening divide?

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Russell, Rachel

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: British Journal of Occupational Therapy , pp. 03080226261466103

Access or request full text: <https://libkey.io/10.1177/03080226261466103>

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1177/03080226261466103>

8. The occupational therapy role in acute psychiatric inpatient units in Australia: A mixed methods study

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: van Diemen, Leanne; Pepin, Genevieve and Knight, Rachel

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: Australian Occupational Therapy Journal 73(4), pp. e70103

Abstract: Introduction Occupational therapists are important members of mental health multidisciplinary teams. Despite aligning with mental health reform priorities, including promoting client centredness and participation, the role of occupational therapists in mental health, particularly in acute psychiatric inpatient units, is poorly understood. This study explored the role, function, and scope of practice of occupational therapists in Australian acute psychiatric inpatient units. Methods This mixed methods, convergent parallel design study combined in-depth interviewing and a cross-sectional survey. Qualitative and quantitative data were analysed using thematic analysis and descriptive statistics, respectively. Both forms of data were analysed separately and then integrated and merged using a contiguous approach. The Occupational Therapy Australia Mental Health Capability Framework guided survey questions and interview guide development. The Model of Human Occupation informed interview guide development, while maintaining an occupational focus



across the study. Consumer Involvement Consumer involvement was not relevant for this study. Findings Fifty-nine mental health occupational therapists participated in the study. All completed the survey, and 13 also participated in interviews. Participants were mostly females (83%), aged under 30 (58%), from Victoria (70%), with less than 3 years' experience in acute psychiatric inpatient units (77%). Four themes were identified: (1) a day in the life-same same but different, (2) the underutilised potential of occupational therapy, (3) an evolving practice and increasing demand, and (4) practice shaped by and shaping the environment. Key functions of the role included assessment, completed by survey participants either once a day (37%) or more (16%); individual interventions, completed once a day (48%); group work, completed several times a day (43%); and discharge planning. Conclusion Occupational therapists working in Australian acute psychiatric inpatient units share common functions, challenges, and experiences. Limited resources and challenges advocating for their role impact occupational therapists' ability to demonstrate their value within multidisciplinary teams.

Access or request full text: <https://libkey.io/10.1111/1440-1630.70103>

URL: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=e75d8e4e-b8fe-327e-92d0-7f019b28818d>

9. Implementation of Metacognitive Reflection and Insight Therapy for Occupational Therapy (MERIT-OT) to Support Veterans Receiving Occupational Therapy Mental Health Services

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Wasmuth, Sally;Randolph, Samantha;Triplett, Benjamin;Kamara, Anya;Rehling, Stephanie M.;Taylor, Allison L.;Bunch, Caitlin and Karan, Elizabeth

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy , pp. 19437676261464048

Abstract: Importance Metacognitive Reflection and Insight Therapy for Occupational Therapy (MERIT-OT) is a novel adaptation of an evidence-based psychotherapy model designed to enhance metacognitive capacity and support recovery. Its philosophical alignment with occupational therapy?particularly the emphasis on meaning-making and life participation?makes it a promising intervention for Veterans with serious mental illness. However, to date no implementation studies of MERIT-OT have been conducted.Objective To evaluate the implementation of MERIT-OT within a Veterans Affairs (VA) occupational therapy setting and to explore preliminary findings regarding clinical effectiveness.Design Pilot study evaluating the implementation and preliminary effectiveness of MERIT-OT when delivered by occupational therapists in a VA setting.Setting One VA Medical Center across four occupational therapy practice areas: psychosocial rehabilitation, outpatient mental health, home health, and women's health.Participants Five occupational therapists; three implemented MERIT-OT with nine Veterans over 37 sessions.Outcomes and Measures Implementation outcomes were assessed using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research when analyzing interviews and chart review data. Clinical outcomes were measured using the Metacognition Assessment Scale?Abbreviated (MAS-A).Results Facilitators included perceived relative advantage and tension for change. Barriers included competing priorities and documentation challenges. Quantitative analysis showed early gains



in metacognitive mastery; other subscales showed limited change. Conclusions and Relevance Preliminary findings suggest ongoing consultation, additional training, and improved tools and resources may facilitate MERIT-OT implementation in VA outpatient mental health. What This Article Adds MERIT-OT offers a structured, recovery-oriented approach aligned with occupational therapy values and shows promise for enhancing metacognitive outcomes in mental health settings. Plain Language Summary This project looked at a new approach called MERIT-OT, which stands for Metacognitive Reflection and Insight Therapy for Occupational Therapy. It's a way for occupational therapists to help people—especially Veterans—better understand themselves and others and use that insight to improve their daily lives. MERIT-OT was originally developed for people with serious mental health conditions and has been used by psychologists. This study explored how occupational therapists in Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers could use it in their own work. Five therapists at one VA Medical Center took part, and three of them used MERIT-OT with nine Veterans over several sessions. The researchers wanted to know two things: (1) how easy it was for therapists to use MERIT-OT in their regular work and (2) whether it helped Veterans improve their thinking in ways that made their lives better. They found that therapists who felt MERIT-OT was useful and needed were more likely to use it. However, some therapists didn't use it because time constraints made it hard for them to review MERIT-OT trainings enough to feel comfortable with it. Some therapists also said they might have used it more with better documentation processes in place and better understanding of MERIT-OT as a whole among their co-workers. Veterans who received MERIT-OT showed early improvements in one key area: using insight to solve everyday problems. Other areas of thinking didn't show consistent changes, possibly because more time was needed. Overall, MERIT-OT seems to fit well with occupational therapy and shows promise for helping Veterans in mental health care. The study suggests that with better support and integration into daily practice, MERIT-OT could become a valuable tool for therapists working in the VA system. Importance Metacognitive Reflection and Insight Therapy for Occupational Therapy (MERIT-OT) is a novel adaptation of an evidence-based psychotherapy model designed to enhance metacognitive capacity and support recovery. Its philosophical alignment with occupational therapy—particularly the emphasis on meaning-making and life participation—makes it a promising intervention for Veterans with serious mental illness. However, to date no implementation studies of MERIT-OT have been conducted. Objective To evaluate the implementation of MERIT-OT within a Veterans Affairs (VA) occupational therapy setting and to explore preliminary findings regarding clinical effectiveness. Design Pilot study evaluating the implementation and preliminary effectiveness of MERIT-OT when delivered by occupational therapists in a VA setting. Setting One VA Medical Center across four occupational therapy practice areas: psychosocial rehabilitation, outpatient mental health, home health, and women's health. Participants Five occupational therapists; three implemented MERIT-OT with nine Veterans over 37 sessions. Outcomes and Measures Implementation outcomes were assessed using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research when analyzing interviews and chart review data. Clinical outcomes were measured using the Metacognition Assessment Scale—Abbreviated (MAS-A). Results Facilitators included perceived relative advantage and tension for change. Barriers included competing priorities and documentation challenges. Quantitative analysis showed early gains in metacognitive mastery; other subscales showed limited change. Conclusions and Relevance Preliminary findings suggest ongoing consultation, additional training, and improved tools and resources may facilitate MERIT-OT implementation in VA outpatient mental health. What This Article Adds MERIT-OT offers a structured, recovery-oriented approach aligned with occupational therapy values and shows promise for enhancing metacognitive outcomes in mental health settings. Plain Language Summary This project looked at a new approach called MERIT-OT, which stands for Metacognitive Reflection and Insight Therapy for Occupational Therapy. It's a way for occupational therapists to help people—especially Veterans—better



understand themselves and others and use that insight to improve their daily lives. MERIT-OT was originally developed for people with serious mental health conditions and has been used by psychologists. This study explored how occupational therapists in Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers could use it in their own work. Five therapists at one VA Medical Center took part, and three of them used MERIT-OT with nine Veterans over several sessions. The researchers wanted to know two things: (1) how easy it was for therapists to use MERIT-OT in their regular work and (2) whether it helped Veterans improve their thinking in ways that made their lives better. They found that therapists who felt MERIT-OT was useful and needed were more likely to use it. However, some therapists didn't use it because time constraints made it hard for them to review MERIT-OT trainings enough to feel comfortable with it. Some therapists also said they might have used it more with better documentation processes in place and better understanding of MERIT-OT as a whole among their co-workers. Veterans who received MERIT-OT showed early improvements in one key area: using insight to solve everyday problems. Other areas of thinking didn't show consistent changes, possibly because more time was needed. Overall, MERIT-OT seems to fit well with occupational therapy and shows promise for helping Veterans in mental health care. The study suggests that with better support and integration into daily practice, MERIT-OT could become a valuable tool for therapists working in the VA system.

Access or request full text: <https://libkey.io/10.1177/19437676261464048>

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1177/19437676261464048>

10. Health Policy Perspectives—Realizing the Potential of Occupational Therapy in Supporting Postsecondary Student Mental Health and Success

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Hunt, Eithne; Nolan, Clodagh; Eichler, Jeanne and Keptner, Karen

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy , pp. 19437676261464052

Source: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/19437676261464052>

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Reviews

1. School-Based Occupational Therapy Interventions Through the Lens of the F-Words Framework: A Scoping Review

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Ergün, Başak; Karakuş, Emirhan and Huri, Meral

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: Child: Care, Health and Development 52(4), pp. e70312



Abstract: Background School participation plays a critical role in children's development; however, the extent to which school-based occupational therapy (SBOT) interventions align with the 'F-words for Child Development' (Functioning, Family, Fitness, Friendships, Fun, Future) has not been systematically examined. Objective This study aims to systematically scope SBOT interventions published between 1990 and 2025 and classify them according to the F-words framework. Methods The review adopted the Arksey-O'Malley scoping review framework as the foundational methodological structure and incorporated Levac et al.'s refinements to enhance rigour. The review was informed by Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) guidance for scoping reviews, and reporting followed the PRISMA-ScR checklist. PubMed, Scopus and Web of Science were searched using strategies grounded in the OTPF-4 and MeSH. Eligibility criteria included peer-reviewed intervention studies delivered in schools to students aged 3-18 years, published in English between 1990 and 2025. Results Of 2406 records, 35 studies met the inclusion criteria. Most originated from North America and Australia. The distribution of interventions across the F-words domains was uneven: Functioning appeared in 34 studies (97%), Fitness in 29 (83%), Fun in 23 (66%), Family in 18 (51%), Future in 11 (31%) and Friendships in only 7 (20%). Conclusions SBOT research predominantly emphasizes Functioning and Fitness, while Friendships and Future are comparatively neglected. A more balanced application of the F-words framework would provide a broader understanding of how SBOT interventions are distributed across child development domains.

Access or request full text: <https://libkey.io/10.1111/cch.70312>

URL: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=d5bf41d7-845b-3696-8edf-a0b9502039e3>

2. Occupational Therapy Services Provided to Adults Diagnosed With Kidney Disease: A Scoping Review

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Levison, Jane and Brandis, Susan

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: Journal of Renal Care 52(3), pp. e70068

Abstract: Background Chronic kidney disease and treatment have a severe and detrimental impact on life participation, reducing independence, autonomy, physical and cognitive function requiring a multidisciplinary approach. Occupational therapists have comprehensive skills in enabling independence and quality of life, yet the role in a kidney team is poorly understood. Objectives To identify occupational therapy services for adults diagnosed with kidney disease which will inform future practice, service planning and role definition. Methods Following Joanna Briggs Institute methodology for scoping reviews and the PRISMA-ScR guidelines, PubMed, Scopus, PsycINFO-OVID, ProQuest, and CINAHL were searched from inception to 15 December 2025. The population of interest was adults at any grade of kidney disease, the concept being occupational therapy services/models of care, and the context of any service setting. Results were transferred from Endnote to Covidence, duplicates removed and the title and abstract of articles screened. The full text of the remaining articles was assessed by two researchers, and



themes were identified in alignment with the research questions. Results The search provided 1603 results, with 434 duplicates removed leaving 1169 articles. Following title and abstract screening, 40 papers remained for full text review, resulting in 23 studies for data extraction and analysis. Themes identified included types of occupational therapy interventions, grade of disease progression when interventions were undertaken, models of care and service location. The most reported occupational therapy roles related to activities of daily living, equipment prescription and mental health interventions. Conclusions While the occupational therapy role for patients with kidney disease is evolving worldwide, notably over the past 5 years, it is still underutilised. Further research is required to inform the development of clinical practice guidelines for clear role delineation.

Access or request full text: <https://libkey.io/10.1111/jorc.70068>

URL: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=fcdfff2c-5777-3bed-879d-27854e16f9f4>

3. Characterization of the Term "Wandering" in Dementia-Related Research: A Scoping Review

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Philip, Serrina;Daum, Christine;Neubauer, Noelannah;Miguel-Cruz, Antonio and Liu, Lili

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: Occupational Therapy in Health Care , pp. 1–22

Abstract: "Wandering", commonly associated with dementia, is inconsistently defined in the literature. This scoping review examined definitions of wandering among persons living with dementia. We conducted a scoping review following Arksey and O'Malley's framework using seven databases with keywords "dementia," "wandering," and "terminology." Articles of any year or study design were eligible if they referenced wandering in the context of dementia. Of 1,888 articles identified, 116 met the inclusion criteria. Publications defining the term wandering increased over the last three decades, representing seven categories: aimless walking, normal routine walking for pleasure, elopement, critical wandering, disorientation in spatial navigation, combined definitions, and other. A shared, person-centered definition that includes the perspectives of persons living with dementia would promote an acceptable understanding. As "wandering" carries stigma, its use varies across countries, resulting in inconsistent approaches for research and practice.

Access or request full text: <https://libkey.io/10.1080/07380577.2026.2699848>

URL: <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=9cbeba38-a055-3117-ba42-7171a99abb93>

4. Effects of occupational therapy on psychiatric symptoms and social function in patients with schizophrenia: a systematic review and meta-analysis



Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Sun, Liping;Teng, He;Zhang, Liru;Gao, Xuebin;Li, Wenhang;Song, Linlin;Xu, Qian and Jiang, Wenlong

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: Frontiers in Psychiatry 17, pp. 1862106

Source: <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychiatry/articles/10.3389/fpsyt.2026.1862106/abstract>

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Royal College of Occupational Therapists (2026) *Professional standards for practice, conduct and ethics*. London: RCOT. Available at:
<https://www.rcot.co.uk/explore-resources/standards-guidelines/professional-standards-conduct-ethics> (Accessed: 16 July 2026).

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<https://www.housinglin.org.uk> (Accessed: 16 July 2026).

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