



## How to choose the Right Occupational Therapist for your SCI Clients

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In the hospital setting, early access to an Occupational Therapist is facilitated through the hospital admission process. In the community setting, accessing trained Occupational Therapists as early as possible after injury to help with file management under the SABS can be more difficult. Refer early to a reputable rehabilitation company that has access to Occupational Therapists specifically trained to deal with SCI.

### *For SCI clients, it is important to look for an Occupational Therapist who:*

- has extensive knowledge of human anatomy, functional abilities and limitations (according to the level of lesion), equipment availability and home accessibility and barrier free design knowledge.
- has knowledge of community resources including vendors and nursing agencies.
- is able to work in a team with the client, his/her family, and other health care professionals
- is client-centered and goal-oriented.

### *To find the most suitable OT for your SCI clients:*

- ask colleagues for references of OTs they have used in the past for SCI clients.
- select a rehabilitation company that has a catastrophic injury team/division so that there will be OTs specifically with SCI experience.
- review the recommended OT's resume for experience with SCI individuals, as well as specific courses related to SCI.
- interview the recommended OT to further assess experience with SCI clients.
- contact other insurers who have worked with the recommended OT to inquire about his/her skills on their files.

*Please refer to the Without Prejudice, December 2002 issue for the full article "The Benefits of Early Occupational Therapy Intervention for your Spinal Cord Injured Clients"*

For further information on how Occupational Therapy services can help your SCI clients, contact Sibley & Associates at 1-800-363-8900.