

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT  
STUDENT POLICIES

## APPROPRIATE USE OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR OTA CORE COURSES

As an OTA student you may be asked to complete educational activities that have implications for your health and safety. Each lab instructor will clearly identify safety issues prior to the activity.

This document includes OTA (514-xxx) courses and tasks that have safety considerations. All students are required to review Infection control and college evacuation procedures at the start of each semester.

### 10-514-173 Activity Analysis and Applications

Students may use safety glasses/goggles during parts of this course

#### Copper Tooling:

- Copper foil – sharp edges, potential for cuts if not handled properly; recommend taping edges of foil with masking tape while handling.
- Sustained pressure on joints while embossing the foil with the orange sticks, could lead to soreness or stiffness in joints of hand and wrist if adequate/frequent rest breaks not taken
- Liver of Sulphur – irritating to skin, eyes, and respiratory system; offensive odor can cause nausea and general discomfort; must be used outside or in well-ventilated area; use rubber gloves; for contact with skin, wash with water
- Clear Acrylic Spray – fumes or spray mist can be irritating to respiratory system; must be used outside or in well-ventilated area; if irritation occurs, move to fresh air

#### Materials used in general

- “Tacky Glue” or other craft glue, may be irritating to sensitive skin or with prolonged contact
- Scissors, Utility knives, or X-acto knives used are sharp
- Paints or markers used may stain skin or clothing
- Stove top, electric fry pan, electric kettle used is hot, burns may occur if caution not used
- Flour used for craft project could cause respiratory problems if inhaled; could be problem for individuals with allergies to wheat.

### 10-514-174 OT Performance Skills

Students enrolled in this course participate in palpating muscles of the body and also are palpated by other students. Students complete range of motion and strength testing. Lab activities may increase student symptoms related to joint integrity, range of motion, weakness, or muscle/joint pain. This course requires the use of good body mechanics during palpation and transfers to avoid injury.

Students complete transfers from wheelchair to toilet, shower, and bed. The use of good body mechanics is necessary to prevent injury.

### 10-514-189 OT Phys Rehab Practice

This course requires students to practice exercise (AROM, A/AROM, SROM, PROM, isometric, isometric resistive exercise). Lab activities may increase student symptoms related to joint integrity, range of motion, weakness, or muscle/joint pain.

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT  
STUDENT POLICIES

Students complete transfers from wheelchair to toilet, shower, and bed. The use of good body mechanics is necessary to prevent injury.

MODALITIES:

**Paraffin:**

Contraindications: Do not use if you have (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Board Review)

- Ischemia—e.g., arterial insufficiency
- Bleeding disorders (e.g., hemophilia), Hemorrhage
- Impaired sensation—e.g., spinal cord injury (SCI) may predispose to burns
- Inability to communicate or respond to pain—e.g., dementia
- Malignancy
- Acute trauma or inflammation
- Scar tissue
- Edema
- Atrophic skin
- Poor thermal regulation

**Ice Massage**

Contraindications: Do not use if you have (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Board Review)

- Cold intolerance, hypersensitivity to cold (Raynaud's disease/phenomenon)
- Arterial insufficiency—areas with circulatory compromise such as ischemic areas in patients with peripheral vascular disease affecting the arterial system
- Impaired sensation—insensate skin is at risk for burns
- Cognitive and communication deficits that preclude the patient from reporting pain
- Cardiac, respiratory involvement—if severe HTN present, the patient's BP must be monitored closely
- Cryotherapy induced neuropraxia/axonotmesis, regenerating peripheral nerves
- Open wounds after 48 hours

**Contrast Baths**

- Contraindications: Do not use if you have (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Board Review) small vessel disease caused by diabetes, arteriosclerotic endarteritis, or Burger's disease

10-514-184 OTA Fieldwork I, 10-514-186 OTA Fieldwork IIA, 10-514-187 OTA Fieldwork IIB

Students must refer to the specific orientation provided at each fieldwork location to determine if educational activities have specific health considerations. Students are expected to be familiar with the infection control and evacuation procedures for each fieldwork setting.