

**COMPETENCIES, CRITERIA, AND CLIENT OUTCOMES**  
**Specialty Certification in Feeding, Eating, and Swallowing**  
**Occupational Therapy Assistant**

This document represents the competencies and criteria that applicants must use for building their certification portfolio. Complete information about the requirements for certification and instructions on how to complete a certification application can be found in the Feeding, Eating, and Swallowing Specialty Certification Handbook for occupational therapy assistants.

**COMPETENCY A:** Assessment

**Contributes to the completion of a comprehensive clinical or bedside evaluation under the direction and supervision of the occupational therapist by obtaining relevant and accurate background information and identifying clinical findings that affect the client’s performance in feeding, eating, and swallowing.**

**Client Outcome:** Client and relevant others collaborate with occupational therapy practitioners in an individualized feeding, eating, and swallowing evaluation that reflects the contexts of their occupational environment.

Standard	Criteria
Knowledge	A1. Has knowledge of relevant assessment tools and their indications or limitations for use, including the knowledge of relevant evidence, literature, and epidemiological data.
Knowledge	A2. Has knowledge of body functions and body structures, including contextual factors that influence feeding, eating, and swallowing.
Knowledge	A3. Has knowledge of difference between role of occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant in the feeding, eating, and swallowing evaluation process.
Critical Reasoning	A4. Identifies and reports the objective clinical findings according to the client’s occupational profile that influence feeding, eating, and swallowing.
Interpersonal Skills	A5. Collaborates with client and relevant others to gather information (e.g., medical, cultural, spiritual) that affects feeding, eating, and swallowing.
Performance Skills	A6. Completes comprehensive review of client’s past and current feeding, eating, and swallowing status via chart review, interview of client and relevant others, and interdisciplinary team input.

**COMPETENCY B:** Intervention

**Implements occupational therapy feeding, eating, and swallowing interventions under the supervision of the occupational therapist to optimize safe participation in relevant contexts and to promote adequate nutrition, satisfaction, and quality of life.**

**Client Outcome:** Client will safely feed, eat, and swallow at optimal level of performance in relevant contexts to meet basic needs, including nutritional, psychosocial, and quality of life.

Standard	Criteria
Knowledge	B1. Has knowledge of available remediation and compensatory strategies and adaptive equipment that support optimal level of independence in feeding, eating, and swallowing.
Knowledge	B2. Has knowledge of roles and responsibilities of occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, and other team members in the feeding, eating, and swallowing intervention process.
Knowledge	B3. Has knowledge of the client's religious, cultural, and psychosocial influences related to food that may affect occupational therapy service delivery.
Critical Reasoning	B4. Makes recommendations to the occupational therapist regarding interventions that consider the phases of swallowing appropriate to the client's current level of functioning.
Critical Reasoning	B5. Uses the feeding, eating, and swallowing intervention plan, as developed by the occupational therapist, to select intervention activities that promote pre-feeding and self-feeding skills.
Critical Reasoning	B6. Makes timely recommendations to the supervising occupational therapist regarding service delivery that increases the client's potential to benefit from ongoing occupational therapy intervention for feeding, eating, and swallowing.
Performance Skills	B7. Demonstrates effective implementation of direct and indirect feeding, eating, and swallowing intervention approaches as developed by the occupational therapist.
Interpersonal Skills	B8. Engages in team relationships that serve to support client feeding, eating, and swallowing outcomes.
Ethical Reasoning	B9. Understands and collaborates with the supervising occupational therapist to respond to ethical, legal, and risk management issues that may affect the client surrounding feeding, eating, and swallowing.

**COMPETENCY C:** Documentation and Reimbursement

**Documents the occupational therapy skilled intervention process under the supervision of an occupational therapist to ensure reimbursement.**

**Client Outcome:** Client receives appropriate services that are documented and eligible for reimbursement.

Standard	Criteria
Knowledge	C1. Uses appropriate terminology associated with feeding, eating, and swallowing to document and communicate assessment results, interventions, and recommendations to client and relevant others.
Performance Skills	C2. Documents and communicates the client's condition and response to intervention to reflect level of safety and independence in feeding, eating, and swallowing.
Interpersonal Skills	C3. Understands and participates in the supervisory relationship with the occupational therapist via timely written and oral communication and documentation of all clients engaged in feeding, eating, and swallowing intervention.

**COMPETENCY D:** Advocacy

**Under the supervision of an occupational therapist, contributes to client access and improves quality of occupational therapy services for persons with feeding, eating, and swallowing issues.**

**Client Outcome:** Client and relevant others are able to access needed services for feeding, eating, and swallowing and benefit from ongoing program evaluation and improvement in occupational therapy service delivery.

Standard	Criteria
Knowledge	D1. Has knowledge of access strategies to obtain occupational therapy services relevant to feeding, eating, and swallowing covered under the IDEA, Medicare, and other community health care payer and provider systems.
Knowledge	D2. Has knowledge of program evaluation methods appropriate for population served and occupational therapy outcomes relevant to feeding, eating, and swallowing.
Performance Skills	D3. Develops the ability of clients and relevant others to advocate for their own access to feeding, eating, and swallowing services.
Interpersonal Skills	D4. Collaborates with primary occupational therapist and other team members to advocate for occupational therapy access and critically review program outcomes.
Ethical Reasoning	D5. Advocates for client choice in collaboration with the supervising occupational therapist regarding quality-of-life and end-of-life issues related to feeding, eating, and swallowing.