

**POLICY E.8**

**Subject:**       **Competence and Continuing Competence**

**Code:**         **RA Motion 7/94, 2003M54, 2006C341**

**PURPOSE:**    To establish policy for the process of developing, maintaining, and updating competence and continuing competence of Association members.

**IT SHALL BE THE POLICY OF THE ASSOCIATION THAT:**

1. Occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) shall actively develop, maintain, and update competence and pursue continuing competence in order to ensure the provision of high quality practice.
2. The AOTA *Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics* (Code) holds occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants accountable to achieve and maintain their own competence.
3. The Association shall support the efforts of members to maintain competence and develop continuing competence; support may include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. Competence:
    - i. Development and promotion of the Standards of Practice.
    - ii. Development of the Code.
    - iii. Development and distribution of Association practice-related documents.
  - b. Continuing Competence:
    - i. Development and promotion of the Standards for Continuing Competence.
    - ii. Development of a variety of methods of self-assessment, a dynamic process that facilitates movement through various stages of professional development.
    - iii. Development, implementation, and administration of Board Certification and Specialty Certification programs.
    - iv. Development, provision, and coordination of resources for continuing education and other learning activities.
    - v. Development, provision, and coordination of resource, network, and information systems.

Effective: 7/94

Revised: 4/98, 6/03, 4/06, 7/15

BPPC Reviewed: 10/01, 1/02, 1/03, 1/06, 1/11, 7/15

Rescinded: