Definitions for Direct Service and Consultation

Direct Service:

As defined by the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners: Direct service…refers to the provision of occupational therapy services to individuals to develop, improve, and/or restore functioning.

The direct student service component of the collaborative model is a discipline specific service provided by the occupational therapist. These services are provided when implementation of the student’s goals requires the discipline specific skills of the therapist.

Direct services may be provided to individuals or small groups. This component requires supplemental consultative services to ensure generalization of student’s skills to other settings.

Consultation:

As defined by the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners: Consultation… (is) the provision of an occupational therapist’s expertise to an individual or institution. This service may be provided on a one time only basis or on an ongoing basis.

Consultative student services include two goals: First, the consultant seeks to create solutions that remediate the presenting problems. Second, the consultant seeks to increase others’ skills, so that they can respond more effectively to similar problems in the future. Consultative services may be given to students, staff, families, and administration. Consultative services may be appropriate for the following areas: educationally related activities, assistive technology, adaptive materials, and when emphasis is on accommodations to learning environment.