

FACULTY OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians

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What is an Occupational Health Service?

The British Medical Association (BMA) believes that the purpose of an occupational health service is to:

- promote, protect and maintain the health, safety and welfare of people at work
- advise on the rehabilitation and placement in suitable work of those temporarily or permanently incapacitated by illness or injury
- advise on the provision of safe and healthy conditions by informed assessment of the physical and psychological aspects of the working environment
- carry out or promote research into the causes of occupational diseases and injury and into the means of their prevention
- educate all concerned in the attainment and preservation of good health to provide adequate immediate treatment for medical emergencies and injuries at work
- assist in the training and in the maintenance of competency of First Aid staff

To achieve these aims, occupational physicians, nurses, administrative and other staff should be able to work as a team, and each member of the team should have clearly defined job descriptions. A suitable arrangement should be made to ensure appropriate liaison with other health and safety professionals.

From the Occupational Health Committee of the BMA's publication 'The Occupational Physician' June 2001

Occupational Health Nursing is a nursing specialism. For more information please see the Association of Occupational Health Nurse Practitioners website at <http://www.aohnp.co.uk> and the Royal College of Nursing website at <http://www.rcn.org.uk>

Occupational Hygiene anticipates, recognises, evaluates and controls occupational health hazards. Its primary objectives are to protect the wellbeing of workers and to safeguard the community at large. For more information please see the British Occupational Hygiene Society website at <http://www.bohs.org>

Occupational Therapy is separate from occupational health and is a tool used in the rehabilitation of individuals. For further information please see the British Association of Occupational Therapists/College of Occupational Therapists website at <http://www.cot.co.uk>

For a complete list of links to organisations representing other professionals involved in Occupational Medicine, please see the Professional Organisations in Occupational Safety and Health (POOSH) website at <http://www.poosh.org>

Confidential



Important Notes

- To have a complete Occupational Health service, this requires a variety of personnel in both Occupational Health and Safety working together.

Sources

- Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Royal College of Physicians. UK (excerpt)

