

# occupational therapy malpractice cases

## Occupational Therapy Malpractice Cases: Understanding Risks and Legal Implications

**occupational therapy malpractice cases** are a niche yet critical area within medical malpractice law that often goes under-discussed. Occupational therapists play a vital role in helping individuals regain or improve their daily living and working skills after injury, illness, or disability. However, like any healthcare profession, occupational therapy is not immune to errors or negligence that can lead to harm. When such situations arise, understanding the nature of occupational therapy malpractice cases becomes essential for both patients and practitioners.

In this article, we'll explore what occupational therapy malpractice entails, common causes of these cases, the legal considerations involved, and how both therapists and patients can navigate this complex field.

## What Constitutes Occupational Therapy Malpractice?

Malpractice, in any healthcare context, generally refers to a professional's failure to provide the standard of care that a reasonably competent practitioner would offer, resulting in harm to the patient. In occupational therapy, malpractice can take several forms, including negligence, failure to diagnose or appropriately treat, improper patient handling, or even breaches of confidentiality.

## Common Examples of Occupational Therapy Malpractice

Occupational therapy malpractice is often related to errors that impact a patient's physical or mental well-being. Some typical scenarios include:

- **Incorrect Treatment Plans:** Developing or implementing therapy plans that are unsuitable for the patient's condition, potentially causing further injury or delayed recovery.
- **Poor Patient Assessment:** Inadequate evaluation of a patient's needs or limitations, leading to inappropriate therapy techniques or exercises.
- **Failure to Monitor Progress:** Not regularly reviewing the patient's response to treatment, missing signs of complications or deterioration.
- **Improper Use of Equipment:** Misapplication of assistive devices or therapeutic tools, which can cause physical harm.
- **Communication Failures:** Lack of clear communication with patients or other healthcare providers, resulting in misunderstandings or errors in care coordination.

Understanding these mistakes is crucial for patients who suspect malpractice and for occupational

therapists aiming to minimize risks.

## **How Occupational Therapy Malpractice Cases Arise**

Malpractice claims in occupational therapy often stem from situations where the patient experiences unexpected harm or worsening of their condition due to the therapist's actions or omissions. Some common contributing factors include:

### **Inadequate Training or Supervision**

In some cases, therapists may be inadequately trained for specific treatments or lack sufficient supervision, especially in complex cases involving vulnerable populations such as children or elderly patients. This gap can lead to errors in therapy delivery.

### **Documentation and Record-Keeping Issues**

Proper documentation is essential in healthcare, not only for continuity of care but also for legal protection. Failure to maintain accurate, up-to-date records can obscure the facts in malpractice disputes and may itself be considered negligent.

### **Pressure and Workload**

High patient loads and time pressures can contribute to mistakes. When therapists are rushed, they might skip thorough assessments or fail to notice subtle signs that something is wrong, increasing the risk of malpractice.

## **Legal Considerations in Occupational Therapy Malpractice Cases**

Navigating the legal landscape surrounding occupational therapy malpractice can be complex. Since occupational therapy is a specialized field, malpractice claims often require expert testimony to establish whether the therapist's conduct deviated from accepted standards of care.

### **Elements of a Malpractice Claim**

To establish a malpractice case, the plaintiff (patient) typically needs to prove:

1. **Duty of Care:** The therapist owed a professional duty to the patient.
2. **Breach of Duty:** The therapist failed to meet the standard of care expected.
3. **Causation:** This breach directly caused harm or injury to the patient.
4. **Damages:** The patient suffered measurable losses, such as physical injury, pain and suffering, or financial costs.

## The Role of Expert Witnesses

Expert witnesses, often other licensed occupational therapists or healthcare professionals, play a pivotal role in clarifying what constitutes appropriate care. They help courts understand the technical aspects of therapy protocols and whether the defendant's actions were negligent.

## Statute of Limitations and Reporting

Malpractice claims are subject to time limits, known as statutes of limitations, which vary by jurisdiction. Patients must be aware of these deadlines to ensure their right to file a claim is preserved. Additionally, some cases may require reporting to professional licensing boards, which can lead to disciplinary actions separate from legal consequences.

## Preventing Occupational Therapy Malpractice

While occupational therapy malpractice cases can have serious repercussions, many are preventable through diligent professional practices and patient engagement.

## Best Practices for Occupational Therapists

- **Continuous Education:** Staying updated on the latest therapy techniques and safety protocols helps reduce errors.
- **Thorough Assessments:** Conducting comprehensive evaluations before starting treatment ensures therapy is tailored appropriately.
- **Clear Communication:** Maintaining open dialogue with patients and healthcare teams fosters understanding and cooperation.
- **Meticulous Documentation:** Recording every session, patient response, and treatment adjustment provides a clear care history.

- **Adherence to Ethical Guidelines:** Following professional codes of conduct protects both patients and therapists.

## Tips for Patients

Patients can play an active role in minimizing risks by:

- Asking questions about their therapy plans and expected outcomes.
- Reporting any pain, discomfort, or adverse reactions immediately.
- Keeping personal records of treatments and communications.
- Seeking second opinions if uncertain about their therapy progress.

## Common Outcomes and Compensation in Malpractice Cases

When occupational therapy malpractice is proven, the injured party may be entitled to various forms of compensation. These often include:

- **Medical Expenses:** Covering costs for additional treatments or surgeries caused by the malpractice.
- **Lost Wages:** Compensation for time off work due to injury or disability.
- **Pain and Suffering:** Monetary awards for physical and emotional distress.
- **Long-term Care:** In cases of permanent disability, funds for ongoing support or rehabilitation.

It's important to note that the outcomes of malpractice lawsuits can vary widely depending on the specifics of the case, jurisdiction, and available evidence.

## The Growing Awareness of Occupational Therapy Malpractice

As the healthcare industry becomes more patient-centered, the awareness around occupational therapy malpractice cases has increased. This shift encourages better risk management practices and patient safety initiatives within the profession. Regulatory bodies and associations are also emphasizing ethical standards and continuing education to minimize malpractice risks.

For patients and families navigating this terrain, understanding the nuances of occupational therapy malpractice helps empower informed decisions and fosters trust in the therapeutic process.

Whether you are an occupational therapist aiming to safeguard your practice or a patient seeking clarity after an adverse experience, staying informed about occupational therapy malpractice cases is a crucial step toward ensuring accountability and quality care.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What constitutes malpractice in occupational therapy?**

Malpractice in occupational therapy occurs when an occupational therapist fails to provide the standard of care expected, resulting in harm or injury to the patient. This can include negligence, improper treatment, misdiagnosis, or failure to obtain informed consent.

### **What are common causes of occupational therapy malpractice claims?**

Common causes include failure to properly assess a patient's condition, inadequate documentation, improper use of therapy techniques or equipment, failure to monitor patient progress, and lack of informed consent.

### **How can occupational therapists prevent malpractice claims?**

Occupational therapists can prevent malpractice claims by maintaining thorough and accurate documentation, following established treatment protocols, obtaining informed consent, communicating effectively with patients, and participating in ongoing professional education.

### **What are the legal consequences of occupational therapy malpractice?**

Legal consequences may include civil lawsuits resulting in financial damages, professional disciplinary actions such as license suspension or revocation, and damage to the therapist's professional reputation.

### **Can patients sue for emotional distress in occupational therapy malpractice cases?**

Yes, in some cases patients may claim emotional distress if the malpractice caused significant psychological harm or trauma, though this varies depending on jurisdiction and case specifics.

## **How long do patients have to file a malpractice claim against an occupational therapist?**

The statute of limitations for filing malpractice claims varies by state but typically ranges from 1 to 3 years from the date of the alleged malpractice or discovery of the injury.

## **Are occupational therapy assistants also liable for malpractice?**

Yes, occupational therapy assistants can be held liable for malpractice if their actions fall below the standard of care and cause harm to a patient, although liability often depends on supervision and scope of practice.

## **What role does documentation play in occupational therapy malpractice cases?**

Accurate and detailed documentation is crucial as it provides evidence of the care provided, supports clinical decisions, and can protect therapists in malpractice claims by demonstrating adherence to standards.

## **Is malpractice insurance necessary for occupational therapists?**

Yes, malpractice insurance is highly recommended for occupational therapists to protect against financial losses resulting from lawsuits or claims of professional negligence.

## **Additional Resources**

Occupational Therapy Malpractice Cases: An In-Depth Professional Review

**occupational therapy malpractice cases** represent a complex and often under-examined area within healthcare litigation. As occupational therapy (OT) continues to expand in scope and significance—helping patients regain or develop essential life skills after injury, illness, or disability—the potential for professional negligence claims has concurrently increased. This article explores the nuances of occupational therapy malpractice, examining common grounds for claims, legal implications, and risk management strategies, all while maintaining a factual and professional tone suitable for healthcare providers, legal professionals, and policy analysts.

## **Understanding Occupational Therapy Malpractice**

Occupational therapy malpractice occurs when an occupational therapist breaches the standard of care, resulting in harm or injury to a patient. Unlike medical malpractice in fields such as surgery or emergency care, OT malpractice often involves more subtle yet impactful failures, such as inadequate assessment, improper intervention plans, or lack of informed consent. Given the personalized, client-centered nature of occupational therapy, these cases require careful legal and clinical scrutiny.

# Defining the Standard of Care in Occupational Therapy

A critical element in any malpractice case is defining the "standard of care"—the level and type of care an average, reasonably prudent occupational therapist would provide under similar circumstances. This standard is typically informed by professional guidelines from bodies like the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), state licensing boards, and peer-reviewed clinical protocols. Failure to adhere to these standards can form the basis for negligence claims.

## Common Causes of Occupational Therapy Malpractice Cases

Occupational therapy malpractice cases often arise from various lapses, including but not limited to:

- **Inadequate Assessment:** Failure to conduct thorough evaluations before creating a treatment plan can lead to inappropriate or harmful interventions.
- **Poor Documentation:** Incomplete or inaccurate record-keeping may obscure the therapist's decision-making process, complicating defense against claims.
- **Improper Supervision:** Failure to supervise aides or assistants properly can result in errors that harm patients.
- **Failure to Obtain Informed Consent:** Patients must be adequately informed about the nature, risks, and alternatives to therapy; neglecting this can lead to legal challenges.
- **Negligent Treatment:** Administering therapy outside of professional competence or established guidelines can cause injury or exacerbate conditions.

## Legal Landscape Surrounding Occupational Therapy Malpractice

Malpractice litigation in occupational therapy, while less frequent than in other healthcare disciplines, is on the rise as the profession gains visibility and autonomy. Legal professionals and insurers increasingly recognize OT malpractice as a distinct category, necessitating specialized understanding of the profession's scope and limitations.

## Case Examples and Outcomes

Several reported cases illustrate typical scenarios in occupational therapy malpractice:

- A therapist failing to detect signs of patient deterioration during stroke rehabilitation, leading to

worsening neurological damage.

- An occupational therapist administering exercises beyond a patient's physical capacity, resulting in fractures or soft tissue injuries.
- Insufficient communication with multidisciplinary teams, causing conflicting treatments and delayed recovery.

Outcomes in these cases vary widely, influenced by jurisdictional laws, evidence quality, and the therapist's adherence to professional standards. Settlements often focus on compensatory damages for pain, suffering, and additional medical costs, while punitive damages remain rare.

## Proving Negligence in Occupational Therapy Malpractice

Proving negligence involves demonstrating four legal elements:

1. **Duty:** The occupational therapist owed a duty of care to the patient.
2. **Breach:** The therapist failed to meet the standard of care.
3. **Causation:** This breach directly caused harm to the patient.
4. **Damages:** The patient suffered quantifiable injury or loss.

The subjective nature of therapy progress and patient response often complicates causation, requiring expert testimony and comprehensive clinical records.

## Risk Management and Prevention Strategies

Given the potential consequences, occupational therapy practitioners and organizations must prioritize risk mitigation. Proactive strategies include:

- **Continued Professional Education:** Regular training on updated clinical guidelines and legal responsibilities.
- **Robust Documentation:** Detailed records of assessments, treatment rationale, patient consent, and progress notes.
- **Clear Communication:** Transparent dialogue with patients and interdisciplinary teams to align expectations and treatment goals.
- **Adherence to Scope of Practice:** Avoidance of interventions beyond certified competencies

or license limits.

- **Supervision Policies:** Ensuring assistants and support staff are adequately trained and overseen.

Healthcare organizations may also implement quality assurance programs and legal audits to further reduce malpractice risks.

## **The Role of Professional Liability Insurance**

Occupational therapists are advised to maintain professional liability insurance tailored to their practice settings. These policies can cover legal defense costs, settlements, and judgments arising from malpractice claims. Insurers often require evidence of risk management procedures and continuing education as part of coverage criteria.

## **Implications for Patients and Healthcare Systems**

Occupational therapy malpractice cases not only impact individual patients but also have broader implications for healthcare systems. Malpractice suits can lead to increased insurance premiums, stricter regulatory oversight, and in some cases, reductions in OT service availability due to perceived risk. Conversely, awareness of malpractice risks encourages higher standards of care, benefiting patient outcomes.

From a patient perspective, understanding the potential for OT malpractice underscores the importance of active participation in therapy decisions and prompt communication of concerns. Empowering patients through education about their rights and expected care standards can help minimize adverse events.

## **Comparisons with Other Healthcare Malpractice Claims**

Compared to medical malpractice in surgery or anesthesia, occupational therapy malpractice claims typically involve less dramatic physical harm but can result in significant functional impairment and quality-of-life reduction. The subjective progress of therapy and individualized goals complicate litigation, contrasting with more quantifiable outcomes in other specialties.

While the volume of OT malpractice cases remains relatively low, the trend suggests growing recognition of occupational therapy as a vital—and legally accountable—component of patient care.

Occupational therapy malpractice cases demand ongoing professional vigilance, comprehensive risk management, and informed legal understanding. As the field evolves, stakeholders must balance the promotion of innovative therapeutic practices with the imperative to safeguard patient welfare and uphold the highest standards of professional conduct.

## Occupational Therapy Malpractice Cases

### **occupational therapy malpractice cases: *Occupational Therapy for Physical Dysfunction***

Diane Powers Dirette, Sharon A. Gutman, 2020-01-30 Designed to help students become effective, reflective practitioners, this fully updated edition of the most widely used occupational therapy text for the course continues to emphasize the “whys” as well as the “how-tos” of holistic assessment and treatment. Now in striking full color and co-edited by renowned educators and authors Diane Powers Dirette and Sharon Gutman, *Occupational Therapy for Physical Dysfunction*, Eighth Edition features expert coverage of the latest assessment techniques and most recent trends in clinical practice. In addition, the book now explicitly integrates “Frames of Reference” to help students connect theories to practice and features a new six-part organization, thirteen all-new chapters, new pedagogy, and more.

### **occupational therapy malpractice cases: *Occupational Therapy***

Alice J. Punwar, Suzanne M. Peloquin, 2000 Written in a casual, narrative style, this edition has been updated with five new chapters, new case studies, new clinical stories, and discussion questions focusing on ethical, legal, and interpersonal issues. The text introduces students to the field of occupational therapy and to career opportunities in the field. Using clinical examples and case studies, this edition provides a realistic look at the complementary roles of the registered occupational therapist (OTR) and the certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA). *Occupational Therapy: Principles and Practice* illustrates the OT process within various practice settings, including the acute care hospital, public school, and home health practice. Other topics include current and prospective issues in the field, the U.S. health care system, influences/implications of managed care on the profession, and the international OT market. All charts/tables reflect current statistics. This edition differs significantly from the earlier edition by the addition of a second author, Professor Suzanne Peloquin, PhD, a recognized authority in her field. Dr. Peloquin recounts stories from occupational therapy history and offers unique insights into current practice.

### **occupational therapy malpractice cases: *Legal, Ethical, and Practical Aspects of Patient***

**Care Documentation** Ron W. Scott, 2013 Fourth Edition, is the only text to integrate coverage of the legal responsibilities of rehabilitation professionals with basic, essential advice on how to effectively document patient care activities from intake through discharge. This resource thoroughly covers the basics of documentation and includes many exemplars, cases, and forms, as well as a sample abbreviations used in rehabilitation settings. This book covers all the bases from ethics, to practical aspects of patient care documentation, to relevant and salient legal implications and illustrative case examples that will help students excel in practice.

### **occupational therapy malpractice cases: *Promoting Legal and Ethical Awareness -***

**E-Book** Ronald W. Scott, 2008-02-08 Combining the best of author Ron Scott's books, *Promoting Legal Awareness in Physical and Occupational Therapy* and *Professional Ethics: A Guide for Rehabilitation Professionals*, his newest text *Promoting Legal and Ethical Awareness: A Primer for Health Professionals and Patients* includes the latest case, regulatory, and statutory law. This valuable ethical and legal resource also includes an alphabetized section on HIPAA, current information on the reauthorized IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Act), and expanded coverage of alternative dispute resolution and attorney-health professional-client relations. - Cases and Questions allow you to apply key legal and ethical principles to a rehabilitation practice situation. - Special Key Term boxes introduce and define important vocabulary to ensure your understanding of chapter content. - Additional resource lists in each chapter include helpful sources for articles, books, and websites to further your learning. - Case Examples let you put new ideas and concepts into practice by applying your knowledge to the example. - Legal Foundations and Ethical Foundations chapters introduce the basic concepts of law, legal history, the court system, and ethics in the professional setting to provide a solid base for legal and ethical knowledge. - An entire chapter devoted to healthcare malpractice provides vital information on practice problems that have

legal implications, the claim process, and claim prevention. - An extended discussion of the Americans with Disabilities Act informs you of your rights as an employee as well as the challenges faced in the workforce by your rehabilitation patients. - Content on employment legal issues includes essential information for both employees and employers on patient interaction and the patient's status in the workplace. - Coverage of end-of-life issues and their legal and ethical implications provides important information for helping patients through end-of-life decisions and care.

**occupational therapy malpractice cases:** Legal Aspects of Documenting Patient Care for Rehabilitation Professionals Ronald W. Scott, 2006 Because communication among health care professionals can mean the difference between patient life and death, clear and effective patient care documentation is as important as the delivery of care itself. The rehabilitation professional faces formidable documentation responsibilities. Patient care documentation created by the rehabilitation professional must be accurate, comprehensive, concise, objective, and timely. In an interdisciplinary health care environment, documentation must also be expeditiously communicated to other professionals on the health care team.

**occupational therapy malpractice cases:** *An Occupational Therapist's Guide to Home Modification Practice* Elizabeth Ainsworth, Desleigh de Jonge, 2024-06-01 Older people and people with a disability have a right to be included in all aspects of home and community life, and yet, environmental barriers continue to exist in the built environment. There are concerns about how well homes can support older people and people with a disability over time as their needs change. Occupational therapists are well suited to determining the most appropriate home modification solutions to address environmental barriers. They possess the knowledge and skills necessary to evaluate people's current and future needs in the context of the nature and use of the environment and can work collaboratively with design and construction professionals to develop solutions. To be comprehensive and effective in their approach, occupational therapists need to understand not only the individual's requirements, but also, the ethical and legal contexts for practice, the technical aspects of the built environment, the relevance and intent of access standards and design approaches, and the application of a range of products and finishes. *An Occupational Therapist's Guide to Home Modification Practice, Second Edition* by Elizabeth Ainsworth and Desleigh de Jonge and their team of expert contributors provides comprehensive information to inform occupational therapists about current practice and research. This includes the authors using a transactional approach to examine the person-occupation-environment interaction and providing occupational therapists with a detailed understanding of the various dimensions of the home environment that can impact on client's home modification decisions. New material has been provided relating to research and practice issues, such as an overview of the latest home modification outcome research findings as documented in literature; an update on outcome evaluation; new research information about the dimensions of the home impacting on decision making; additional information grabrail and ramp prescription; and the inclusion of new case studies illustrating minor and major modification solutions for clients who present with diverse needs. In the Second Edition you'll find: A detailed understanding of aspects of the home environment that impact home modification decisions A review of legislative environment and funding systems that facilitate service delivery An overview of home modification services, as well as future trends A range of comprehensive case studies — illustrated by photographs Additional theory to inform knowledge, and skill development, that can be used in home modification practice worldwide Included with the text are online supplemental materials for faculty use in the classroom.. *An Occupational Therapist's Guide to Home Modification Practice, Second Edition* provides a range of resources and tools, and it can be used as a teaching aid to support students, interns, and novice therapists or as a manual for reflection and practice for more experienced home modification practitioners.

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**occupational therapy malpractice cases:** *Legal Aspects of Documenting Patient Care* Ronald W. Scott, 2000 This Second Edition Of Our Easy-To-Use Reference Takes A Risk Management Approach To Patient Care Documentation. It Shows Clinicians From A Wide Variety Of Disciplines How To Be Objective, Precise, Unambiguous, And Timely When Documenting Treatment-Related Matters. The Content Is Written In Straightforward Lay Language And Includes Sample Documentation Forms. The New Edition Includes Information On Computerized Documentation; Coverage Of Telehealth Issues; Updates On JCAHO, CARF, And NCQA Accreditation; And Documentation Problems Specific To Non-Hospital And Managed Care Settings.

**occupational therapy malpractice cases: Patient Education in Rehabilitation** Dreeben, Olga Dreeben-Irimia, 2010-10-22 As a science, it consists of health care professional's development of patient education skills. Delivering information, education, and training in rehabilitation is intended to promote and optimize clinical interventions including compliance, continuity of care, and patient (client) satisfaction. This text applies patient education skills to the clinical rehabilitation process. Complete with chapter objectives, case studies, summaries, appendices, and a glossary, this new book is ideal for all rehabilitation professionals.

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**occupational therapy malpractice cases: Leading Community Based Changes in the Culture of Health in the US** Claudia S.P. Fernandez, Giselle Corbie-Smith, 2021-09-08 Advancing health equity calls for a new kind of leader and a new approach to leadership development. Clinical Scholars and Culture of Health Leaders are mid-career leadership development programs supporting the emergence of collaborative and systemic approaches, bringing teams of leaders together with others in the community to work toward the common goal of lessening health disparities. In each chapter of this book, the authors share how they tackled seemingly intractable issues, making headway through applying the principles of adaptive leadership in unbounded systems to create not only outcomes but also impacts on health disparities and, in some cases, sustainable and scalable applications. In this volume, you will learn how Clinical Scholars and Culture of Health Leaders programs curated and measured the successful learning and development of these dedicated health-equity advocates.

**occupational therapy malpractice cases:** *The Case Manager's Training Manual* David W. Plocher, Patricia L. Metzger, 2001 Stem Cell and Bone Marrow Transplantation

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**occupational therapy malpractice cases: Wound Care Essentials** , 2004 This

comprehensive yet concise wound care handbook covers all aspects of wound care: wound healing, wound assessment, and treatment options for all types of wounds. More than 100 illustrations, checklists, tables, recurring icons, and flowcharts provide easy access to essential information, and a 16-page full-color insert illustrates the healing process and types of wounds.

**occupational therapy malpractice cases: Pain E-Book** Hubert van Griensven, Jenny Strong, Anita M. Unruh, 2013-12-06 The highly anticipated new edition of Pain: a textbook for health professionals (previous subtitle a textbook for therapists) has undergone a major rewrite in order to reflect the rapid developments in the field of pain management. It highlights an effective and evidence-based method, providing the theoretical basis to help with the assessment and management of persistent pain, while also discussing in depth a range of specific approaches. Pain: a textbook for health professionals is written emphatically from a biopsychosocial perspective. In order to set the scene, the introductory section includes chapters on the patient's voice and social determinants of pain. This ensures that the deeply personal and social aspects of pain are not lost among the more technical and biological commentary. These aspects provide an overall context, and are revisited in chapters on participation of life roles, work rehabilitation and psychology. The basic science section includes key chapters on the psychology, neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of pain. This provides a basis for subsequent chapters on specific approaches such as pharmacology, physical therapy and complementary medicine. Pain in specific patient groups, including children, the elderly and those with cancer, are dealt with in separate chapters, as are pain problems such as complex regional pain syndrome and chronic spinal pain. Although the emphasis of the book is on long term pain, acute pain is discussed as a possible precursor and determinant of chronicity. - Patient-centred approach to care - advocates listening to the patient's voice - Covers social determinants of pain - Guides the reader from pain psychology to the practical application of psychological interventions - Learning aids - chapter objectives, reflective exercises, case examples, and revision questions - Emphasizes an evidence-based perspective - Written by an international team of experts - topics such as pain in children and the elderly, pain education for professionals, disability and medico-legal aspects - expanded focus on complex regional pain syndrome, acupuncture and psychology - improved layout for a better learning and studying experience

**occupational therapy malpractice cases: Life Care Planning and Case Management Handbook** Spilios Argyropoulos, Sam Forshall, David Nutt, 2004-05-10 Life Care Planning and Case Management Handbook, Second Edition brings together the many concepts, beliefs, and procedures regarding life care plans into one state-of-the-art publication. This second edition of a bestseller is focused on prioritizing and managing the spectrum of services for people with serious medical problems and their families.

**occupational therapy malpractice cases: Wound Care Essentials** Sharon Baranoski, Elizabeth A. Ayello, 2008 Written by two well-known wound care specialists and an interdisciplinary team of experts, this handbook is essential for all professionals involved in wound care, including nurses, physical therapists, physicians, podiatrists, and long-term care professionals. The book provides practical, comprehensive guidelines for assessment and management of both common and atypical wound problems and covers many topics not sufficiently addressed in other texts, such as sickle cell wounds, amputation, gene therapy, and the specific wound care needs of special populations. Features include more than 100 photographs and illustrations, recurring icons such as Evidence-Based Practice and Practice Points, case studies, and review questions.

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