



Specialty: Occupational Therapist— Falls Intervention Team (FIT)

Education and Training

- Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy required, Master's degree preferred
- Current registration with the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario
- Ministry of Health Assistive Devices Program (ADP) authorizer preferred
- Over four years' experience in a health or community setting
- Knowledge of local resources and referral pathways for continued health support
- Knowledge of core reasons for falls, particularly in the geriatric community
- Demonstrated knowledge/experience in applying the principles of falls prevention
- Knowledge and skills in providing occupational therapy assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of individuals with mobility issues
- Knowledge of common medications that contribute to falls, environmental assessment and community resources

Roles and Responsibilities

As autonomous primary health professionals, occupational therapists work in partnership with clients and relevant others to provide safe, effective, ethical, and client-centered occupational therapy. This position will help clients of all ages who have limited abilities establish, develop and/or maintain the ability to complete daily functions and tasks while focused on reducing slips, trips and falls. As a member of a multidisciplinary team, the Occupational Therapist is to provide assessments, treatment recommendations and community referrals to persons who have sustained a fall. These clients are identified through the 911 Ambulance Communication Center either at the time of the fall or through the Community Paramedicine Program.



Impact

Through a Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) work at Niagara EMS, the OT works with a paramedic on the FIT to provide immediate assistance to 911 callers who have fallen, but have not suffered a life-threatening, time-critical emergency.

The OT and FIT paramedic address the caller's immediate concerns, they can provide assistance on site and help to reduce or eliminate future incidents and/or future 911 calls.