



Private Practice Fee Survey for occupational therapy services in British Columbia (2015)

I Introduction

This survey is administered to occupational therapists in British Columbia who deliver a fee for service. This survey includes occupational therapy practice in community and clinic settings and provides information on fees and charges for occupational therapy practice based on current market conditions. This survey is administered every two years by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, BC Chapter. This survey is based on data collected during April 2015.

II Private Practice Fees

1. Rehabilitation Services

- **Professional time**, including preparation, assessment, treatment, verbal and written consultation and reporting, averages \$111/hour with payer rates ranging from a low average of \$101/hour to a high average of \$121/hour.
- **Travel time** is billed at half the professional hourly rate with mileage charged separately or at the full professional hourly rate with no separate mileage charge.
- **Rural Travel** may be negotiated differently for travel/mileage charges.
- **Flat fees** may be negotiated between the therapist and client/fee payer and these vary considerably depending on the service; flat fees are established using expected hours and hourly rate charges (e.g. Functional Capacity Evaluations).
- **Cancellation fees**: Most therapists charge a cancellation fee with less than 24 hours' notice.

2. Medical Legal Services and Court Attendance

- **Professional time**, including assessment, consultation and report preparation, ranges from \$100-\$250 per hour and averages \$156 per hour. Most therapists charge between \$145 and \$166 per hour. For therapists who charge a flat rate, most charge between \$1800 and \$2400.
- **Rush rate fees** are typically charged when there is a short turn around between referral and report due date; rush rate premiums range from 10-50% increase, \$195-\$205 hourly, or a flat fee ranging from \$515-\$650 added to the price of services.
- **Court attendance** for the half day is billed at \$400-\$1000 and for the full day from \$750 to \$2000.
- **Cancellation Fees** range from a low of \$175 to a high of \$1000 for cancellations within 24 hours, with rates up to \$1000 for same day cancellations; fees vary with the amount of notice provided.
- **Travel time** is charged between 50% and 100% of the professional time rate with an average charge of \$140/hour.



3. Rehabilitation Assistant Services

- **Subcontracting:** Some occupational therapy companies provide rehabilitation assistant services while others sub-contract services to independent companies or independent assistants.
- **Direct client time** ranges from \$40-60 per hour.
- **Travel time** is billed at half the hourly rate with mileage charged separately or at the full hourly rate with no separate mileage charge.
- **Cancellation fees:** For most programs, there is a cancellation fee for cancelled appointments with less than 24 hours' notice; fees vary by company and notice period.

4. Expenses and Administrative Fees

- **Service provider mileage** is charged between \$0.40/km to \$0.64/km with an average rate of \$0.52/km.
- **Clinical Program expenses** are usually billed at cost (e.g. gym fees).
- **Administrative fees** may be applied to requests for copies of files, reports or other information pertaining to a file. Fees may be applied for the retrieval and copying of discharged file records. Long-term file storage fees, file retrieval fees, paper, equipment, and administrative staff costs appear to be offset with these charges.
- Therapists may set flat administration fees for **office expenses**.
- Most therapists charge a flat fee of \$50 to \$75 for **file retrieval** depending on the location of the file (e.g. onsite vs. offsite storage).
- **Document copying/scanning fees** range from \$0.50/page to \$2.00/page copied. A declining fee per page may be charged for large files and this varies among practices. Where patient records are provided electronically, a fee equivalent to the copy fee may be charged for record handling/printing.
- **Incidental office expenses** including postage, courier, word processing and parking are occasionally charged and appear to vary with the payer group and practice type; fees and billing parameters for these services vary widely.

Service Agreements

Many occupational therapists work under specific contracts where fees and reimbursement policies are highly structured and well understood by all parties. However, many therapists contract with third party payers outside of these well-structured contracts and the CAOT-BC survey has revealed a wide range of funding models. Because of all these varied funding models, CAOT-BC suggests that occupational therapists and funders be aware of all the costs (rates, deposits, cancellation policies, fees for expenses) *before* entering in a relationship. This will ensure that each party's expectations are clearly understood and will facilitate a positive interaction with our membership.