

The 2013 legislative process resulted in regulation requiring licensure for both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants. Anyone practicing or holding themselves out as an Occupational Therapist or as an Occupational Therapy Assistant must be licensed to do so by June 1, 2014; licensure is not in effect before that time.

Beginning on June 1, 2014, all **Occupational Therapists** who hold active registrations with DORA will automatically convert from registrations to licenses. At that time, OTs will be able to add “/L” or the term “licensed” as the designation to their credential (e.g., OT/L, OTR/L). A new wallet card will not be issued at that time.

Beginning on June 1, 2014, **Occupational Therapy Assistants** will also require licensure in order to practice in Colorado. Applications will be available on the DORA website the beginning of April, 2014. *Please note that the application for licensure must be complete and approved before an Occupational Therapy Assistant can practice as an OTA, can call themselves one, or use the designation “/L” or the term “licensed” with their credential (e.g., OTA/L, COTA/L).* One cannot practice as an OTA or call themselves one by simply submitting an application; it must be complete and approved by the Director.

Both Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants will be required to renew their license by January 31, 2015. During the renewal process, practitioners will be required to show proof of professional liability coverage, comply with the Michael Skolnick Transparency Act, and begin the Continuing Professional Competency Program process. More information about the specific requirements will be available in the course of the coming year.

What you can do now:

- 1) Know that it is your responsibility to make sure that DORA has your current address, both e-mail and physical mailing addresses;
- 2) Download and read, understand, and comply with the OT Practice Act, which went into effect July 2013; it is located on the DORA Occupational Therapy home page;
- 3) Assure that your OT and OTA colleagues are aware of the licensure status and process, especially those with whom you have a supervisory relationship; and
- 4) Forward this email to your OT and OTA colleagues, employers, human resource departments, and other involved parties.

Please know that the most current information regarding an individual’s license is available on our web site at www.colorado.gov/dora/licensing. Please review the DORA website frequently for updates and new information at www.dora.colorado.gov/professions/occupationaltherapists.

Thank you for your accountability in both upholding the Occupational Therapy licensure law and assuring consumer protection for Colorado’s residents.