

**Occupational Therapy Practice in Primary Health Care: characterizing actions**

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**INTRODUCTION:** Among the Occupational Therapists (OT) working in public services in São Paulo, 21% work in primary health care units (PHCU). This incorporation tends to increase as practitioners begin to compose the "Nuclei of Family Health Support" teams, created in 2008 aiming at expanding primary health care actions. Despite the growing OT recognition in PHCU there are few studies on their actions in this context. **OBJECTIVES:** To describe the practice of OTs in PHCU. **METHODS:** The study was conducted through a questionnaire sent to all of PHCU' OTs in the municipality. Eighteen OTs, out of the 36 OTs identified, answered the questionnaire, talking about their experience, training, the general characteristics of their units and professional practices. **RESULTS:** Regarding professional experience, 14 out of 18 OTs have over 8 years experience in PHCU and 16 out of 18 would not like to move to another service. Regarding training, 16 out of 18 did specialization courses and amongst these, 8 chose to study public health. Concerning the general characterization of the unit, 11 out of 18 PHCU do not rely on the Family Health Program (which seeks to replace the traditional primary care model), 6 out of 18 OTs work as professionals in reference services for 1-4 different PHCU and 5 out of 18 work for more than 4 units. As regards professional practice, 7 out of 18 OTs predominantly attend people in mental suffering, 2 in 18 provide care for people with disabilities and 6 in 18 for both populations. All OTs provide group sessions with a mean frequency of 3,5 groups per week. The main resource used in groups is bodily activities. **CONCLUSIONS:** The OTs studied in this research demonstrated experience in basic care, autonomy in their professional performance and satisfaction in their work place. The organizational structure of PHCU and the assistance work given by the OTs are not homogeneous. The bodily activities group is a significant resource for practitioners. This research contributed to better understand OT strategies in primary care. The second phase of the research with direct observation of assistance activities and open interviews is in progress.