

**Occupational Therapist, Clinical Specialist  
Job Specification & Terms and Conditions**

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| **Job Title and Grade** | **Occupational Therapist, Clinical Specialist**  *(Grade Code: 3824)* |
| **Campaign Reference** | To be completed by Recruiter. |
| **Closing Date** | To be completed by Recruiter. |
| **Proposed Interview Date (s)** | To be completed by Recruiter. |
| **Taking up Appointment** | A start date will be indicated at job offer stage. |
| **Location of Post** | Insert location  There is currently xx permanent / specified purpose / part time / whole-time vacancy available in xxxxxxxxxx  A panel may be formed as a result of this campaign for xxxxxxxxxxx from which current and future, permanent and specified purpose vacancies of full or part-time duration may be filled. |
| **Informal Enquiries** | Please provide name & contact details for person who will deal with informal enquiries. |
| **Details of Service** | Provide details to the following types of questions:   * What service does the unit provide? * What client group is served by the unit? * What are the possible future developments for the service? * What is the team structure? * What area is covered by this service?   There is no limit to the text that can be inserted here. Please use this section to highlight the service and generate interest in the service and job being recruited for |
| **Reporting Relationship** | Please outline reporting relationships associated with the post:   * To whom will the job holder report? * Who will report to the job holder? |
| **Key Working Relationships** | Provide a brief overview of the types of people that the job holder will typically engage with in the fulfilment of the duties and responsibilities of their role. This overview should provide the applicant with a sense for the key working relationships associated with the role. |
| **Purpose of the Post** | The Clinical Specialist will be responsible forthe effective and efficient delivery of an evidenced based, patient focused, quality Occupational Therapy Service, in a specialty area. |
| **Principal Duties and Responsibilities** | *The Occupational Therapist, Clinical Specialist will:*  **Professional / Clinical**   * Identify and prioritise the requirements of the service within a constantly changing environment. * Ensure that professional standards are maintained through clinical audit, supervision and training. * Operate within the scope of Occupational Therapy practice as per CORU requirements and in accordance with local guidelines. * Keep abreast of research and practice developments in relevant clinical areas. Lead and facilitate research projects relevant to the specialist area. * Develop guidelines for safe and effective Occupational Therapy practice related to the specialist area. * Act as an advanced clinical advisor to colleagues and others. * Be responsible for a clinical caseload. * Ensure a high standard of Occupational Therapy assessment, treatment and management and ensure that professional standards of practice are adhered to. * Demonstrate advanced proficiency in the ability to screen and prioritise service users according to clinical need using clinical reasoning skills. * Prioritise and maximise effectiveness of interventions to ensure service demands are optimally met e.g. appropriate delegation and onward referral. * Take a key role in discharge planning. * Demonstrate advanced knowledge of care pathways appropriate to service users and proactively work with colleagues to design and implement processes to improve flow for service users. * Ensure the privacy and dignity of the service user is respected at all times. * Promote the role of Occupational Therapy in the provision of care.   **Education and Training**   * Participate in mandatory training programmes. * Maintain standards of practice and levels of professional knowledge by participating in continuous professional development initiatives and attendance at courses as appropriate. * Engage in peer support with Occupational Therapist colleagues. * Engage in professional clinical Occupational Therapist supervision. * Be responsible, in partnership with local General Management, for the practice education of student therapists through provision of placements and through support for therapists who are practice educators within their departments. * Ensure newly qualified therapists have adequate induction and clinical supervision and assist in implementing annual staff development and performance review.   **Health & Safety**   * Promote a safe working environment in accordance with Health and Safety legislation. * Be aware of and implement agreed policies, procedures and safe professional practice by adhering to relevant legislation, regulations and standards. * Actively participate in risk management issues, identify risks and take responsibility for appropriate action. * Document appropriately and report any adverse incidents, near misses, hazards and accidents in accordance with organisational guidelines. * Have a working knowledge of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Standards as they apply to the role for example, Standards for Healthcare, National Standards for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, Hygiene Standards etc. and comply with associated HSE protocols for implementing and maintaining these standards as appropriate to the role. * Support, promote and actively participate in sustainable energy, water and waste initiatives to create a more sustainable, low carbon and efficient health service.   **Management**   * Responsible for the co-ordination and delivery of service in designated area(s). * Review and allocate resources within the designated area, in collaboration with relevant others. * Promote quality and changes in work practices, procedures, techniques or technology having regard to the development of best practice, advanced practice and emerging practices in Occupational Therapy. * Foster and lead a culture and practice of; evaluating service outcomes; data collection; implementing quality improvement initiatives as appropriate. * Oversee the upkeep of accurate records in line with best clinical governance, organisational requirements and the Freedom of Information Act, GDPR, and render reports and other information / statistics as required. * Develop and implement strategic service and business plans, quality initiatives, audits etc. based on up to date evidence-based practice and report on outcomes. * Work within the multidisciplinary team and liaise with staff to ensure effective communication. * Communicate with other clinical specialists nationally and internationally to further develop clinical excellence and research. * Serve on and provide specialist advice to committees / working groups that may be set up relevant to the area of clinical speciality. * Represent the department / team at meetings and conferences as appropriate. * Liaise with the Occupational Therapist Manager regarding the needs, interests and views of Occupational Therapy staff. * Promote good team working, and a culture that values diversity. * Engage in IT developments as they apply to service user and service administration. * Keep up to date with developments within the organisation and the wider Health Service.   **The above Job Specification is not intended to be a comprehensive list of all duties involved and consequently, the post holder may be required to perform other duties as appropriate to the post which may be assigned to him/her from time to time and to contribute to the development of the post while in office.** |
| **Eligibility Criteria**  **Qualifications and/ or experience** | **Candidates must have at the latest date of application:**  **Please insert Eligibility Criteria for the post - see HSE website at:** [**http://hse.ie/eng/staff/Jobs/Eligibility\_Criteria/**](http://hse.ie/eng/staff/Jobs/Eligibility_Criteria/)  **Health**  A candidate for and any person holding the office must be fully competent and capable of undertaking the duties attached to the office and be in a state of health such as would indicate a reasonable prospect of ability to render regular and efficient service.  **Character**  Each candidate for and any person holding the office must be of good character. |
| **Post specific Requirements** | **This section may be used to specify that candidates must demonstrate particular experience deemed necessary for safe and effective performance in the role**  **e.g.**   * **depth and breadth of experience in providing a service to marginalised communities** * **depth and breadth of experience of working in a High Dependency Unit in an Acute setting** * **depth and breadth of experience of delivering concurrent, multiple projects.**   **Post Specific Requirements are not additional qualifications. It is not possible to include other qualifications in this section, without engaging in having those qualifications recognised as an essential part of the role. Essential requirements form part of the Eligibility Criteria. Eligibility Criteria must be agreed with National HR and are applied to all roles at this grade, not a job in a particular site or service.** |
| **Other requirements specific to the post** | **Please outline if there are specific practical requirements that are specific to the post**  **e.g.**   * **have access to appropriate transport to fulfil the requirements of the role** * **participate in an on-call rota** |
| **Skills, competencies and/or knowledge** | **Professional Knowledge & Experience**  *For example:*   * Demonstrates an advanced level of clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning skills and evidence based practice appropriate to carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the role in line with relevant legislation and standards. * Applies and articulates an in-depth understanding of the therapeutic use of occupation to positively influence health and wellbeing. * Demonstrates an ability to apply specialist knowledge to best practice. * Demonstrates evidence of having applied / used appropriate assessment tools and treatments and a knowledge of the implications of outcomes for service users, particularly those with complex needs in the specialist area. * Demonstrate a willingness to engage and develop IT skills relevant to the role.   **Planning and Managing Resources**  *For example:*   * Balances clinical work with other research and educational responsibilities. * Provides flexible interventions to meet the varied needs of individual service users. * Demonstrates the ability to plan and manage the delivery of an optimum service in an effective and resourceful manner, within a model of person-centred care. * Demonstrates a high level of initiative, flexibility and adaptability in response to workforce demands. * Promotes the delivery of a holistic, user-focused approach, which encompasses a multi-professional and inter-professional perspective.   **Managing and Developing (Self and Others)**  *For example:*   * Demonstrates advanced leadership and team skills including the ability to lead by example. * Demonstrates a commitment to managing and developing self and others in a busy working environment. * Deals positively and constructively with obstacles and conflict within teams. * Demonstrates commitment to continuing professional development (CPD) and facilitates staff development by providing support such as; supervising, mentoring, coaching and formal development planning. Develops and/or implements systems to support a CPD culture within the service.   **Commitment to providing a Quality Service**  *For example:*   * Leads on the design, delivery and implementation of a high quality, person centred service. * Designs and develops new, innovative and non-traditional service delivery models which aim to promote a comprehensive and integrated quality service within evolving healthcare structures, overcoming any resource limitations. * Demonstrates and promotes collaborate working relationships as well as having the ability to work independently and exercise a high degree of professional autonomy. * Displays awareness and appreciation of service users and the ability to empathise with and treat others with dignity and respect.   **Evaluating Information and Judging Situations**  *For example:*   * Exercises a high degree of professional autonomy in the analysis of highly complex facts or situations that contribute to the implementation of a treatment or management strategy for the service user. * Demonstrates the ability to effectively analyse and critically evaluate complex information and make appropriate decisions. * Explains the rationale behind decisions confidently when faced with opposing or competing demands. Is objective but also aware of sensitivities in their approach. * Regularly quantifies and evaluates activities against service plans and takes timely action to correct potential difficulties and/or to respond to changing needs. Recognises how service constraints impact on service delivery.   **Communications and Interpersonal Skills**  *For example:*   * Displays effective communication skills (written & verbal) e.g. presents written information in a clear, concise and well-structured manner / communicates complex information by tailoring the communication method and the message to match the needs of the audience. * Demonstrates sound interpersonal skills including the ability to collaborate effectively with a wide range of people, colleagues, families, carers etc. * Demonstrates sensitivity, diplomacy and tact when dealing with others and is patient and tolerant when dealing with conflict or negative attitudes from others. * Demonstrates strong negotiation skills, remains firm but flexible when putting forward a point of view. |
| **Campaign Specific Selection Process**  **Ranking/Shortlisting / Interview** | A ranking and or shortlisting exercise may be carried out on the basis of information supplied in your application form. The criteria for ranking and or shortlisting are based on the requirements of the post as outlined in the eligibility criteria and skills, competencies and/or knowledge section of this job specification. Therefore it is very important that you think about your experience in light of those requirements.  Failure to include information regarding these requirements may result in you not being called forward to the next stage of the selection process.  Those successful at the ranking stage of this process (where applied) will be placed on an order of merit and will be called to interview in ‘bands’ depending on the service needs of the organisation.  The HSE is an equal opportunities employer. |
| **Code of Practice** | The Health Service Executive will run this campaign in compliance with the Code of Practice prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA).  The CPSA is responsible for establishing the principles that should be followed when making an appointment. These are set out in the CPSA Code of Practice. The Code outlines the standards that should be adhered to at each stage of the selection process and sets out the review and appeal mechanisms open to candidates should they be unhappy with a selection process.  The CPSA Code of Practice can be accessed via <https://www.cpsa.ie/>. |
| The reform programme outlined for the Health Services may impact on this role and as structures change the Job Specification may be reviewed.  This Job Specification is a guide to the general range of duties assigned to the post holder. It is intended to be neither definitive nor restrictive and is subject to periodic review with the employee concerned. | |

**Occupational Therapist, Clinical Specialist**

**Terms and Conditions of Employment**

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| **Tenure** | The current vacancy available is **permanent/temporary** and **whole time/part-time.**  The post is pensionable. A panel may be created from which permanent and specified purpose vacancies of full or part time duration may be filled. The tenure of these posts will be indicated at “expression of interest” stage.  Appointment as an employee of the Health Service Executive is governed by the Health Act 2004 and the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 and Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Amendment Act 2013. |
| **Remuneration** | The Salary scale for the post is: **PLEASE INSERT (Pro Rata - part-time)**  **PLEASE INSERT the most recent salary scales for the role and grade code.**  New appointees to any grade start at the minimum point of the scale. Incremental credit will be applied for recognised relevant service in Ireland and abroad (Department of Health Circular 2/2011). Incremental credit is normally granted on appointment, in respect of previous experience in the Civil Service, Local Authorities, Health Service and other Public Service Bodies and Statutory Agencies. |
| **Working Week** | The standard working week applying to the post is to be confirmed at Job Offer stage.  **Please include the following paragraph for posts that traditionally worked 9-5, Monday to Friday. Do not include for nursing and other posts that are required to work shifts over a 7-day week.**  HSE Circular 003-2009 “Matching Working Patterns to Service Needs (Extended Working Day / Week Arrangements); Framework for Implementation of Clause 30.4 of Towards 2016” applies. Under the terms of this circular, all new entrants and staff appointed to promotional posts from Dec 16th, 2008 will be required to work agreed roster / on call arrangements as advised by their line manager. Contracted hours of work are liable to change between the hours of 8am-8pm over seven days to meet the requirements for extended day services in accordance with the terms of the Framework Agreement (Implementation of Clause 30.4 of Towards 2016). |
| **Annual Leave** | The annual leave associated with the post will be confirmed at contracting stage. |
| **Superannuation** | This is a pensionable position with the HSE. The successful candidate will upon appointment become a member of the appropriate pension scheme. Pension scheme membership will be notified within the contract of employment. Members of pre-existing pension schemes who transferred to the HSE on the 01st January 2005 pursuant to Section 60 of the Health Act 2004 are entitled to superannuation benefit terms under the HSE Scheme which are no less favourable to those which they were entitled to at 31st December 2004 |
| **Age** | The Public Service Superannuation (Age of Retirement) Act, 2018\* set 70 years as the compulsory retirement age for public servants.  ***\* Public Servants not affected by this legislation:***  Public servants joining the public service, or re-joining the public service with a 26 week break in service, between 1 April 2004 and 31 December 2012 (new entrants) have no compulsory retirement age.  Public servants, joining the public service or re-joining the public service after a 26 week break, after 1 January 2013 are members of the Single Pension Scheme and have a compulsory retirement age of 70. |
| **Probation** | Every appointment of a person who is not already a permanent officer of the Health Service Executive or of a Local Authority shall be subject to a probationary period of 12 months as stipulated in the Department of Health Circular No.10/71. |
| **Protection of Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998** | As this post is one of those designated under the Protection of Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998, appointment to this post appoints one as a designated officer in accordance with Section 2 of the Act.  You will remain a designated officer for the duration of your appointment to your current post or for the duration of your appointment to such other post as is included in the categories specified in the Ministerial Direction. You will receive full information on your responsibilities under the Act on appointment. |
| **Mandated Person Children First Act 2015** | As a mandated person under the Children First Act 2015 you will have a legal obligation:   * To report child protection concerns at or above a defined threshold to TUSLA. * To assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.   You will remain a mandated person for the duration of your appointment to your current post or for the duration of your appointment to such other post as is included in the categories specified in the Ministerial Direction. You will receive full information on your responsibilities under the Act on appointment. |
| **Infection Control** | Have a working knowledge of Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) Standards as they apply to the role for example, Standards for Healthcare, National Standards for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections, Hygiene Standards etc. and comply with associated HSE protocols for implementing and maintaining these standards as appropriate to the role. |
| **Health & Safety** | It is the responsibility of line managers to ensure that the management of safety, health and welfare is successfully integrated into all activities undertaken within their area of responsibility, so far as is reasonably practicable. Line managers are named and roles and responsibilities detailed in the relevant Site Specific Safety Statement (SSSS).  Key responsibilities include:   * Developing a SSSS for the department/service[[1]](#footnote-1), as applicable, based on the identification of hazards and the assessment of risks, and reviewing/updating same on a regular basis (at least annually) and in the event of any significant change in the work activity or place of work. * Ensuring that Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is integrated into day-to-day business, providing Systems Of Work (SOW) that are planned, organised, performed, maintained and revised as appropriate, and ensuring that all safety related records are maintained and available for inspection. * Consulting and communicating with staff and safety representatives on OSH matters. * Ensuring a training needs assessment (TNA) is undertaken for employees, facilitating their attendance at statutory OSH training, and ensuring records are maintained for each employee. * Ensuring that all incidents occurring within the relevant department/service are appropriately managed and investigated in accordance with HSE procedures[[2]](#footnote-2). * Seeking advice from health and safety professionals through the National Health and Safety Function Helpdesk as appropriate. * Reviewing the health and safety performance of the ward/department/service and staff through, respectively, local audit and performance achievement meetings for example.   **Note**: Detailed roles and responsibilities of Line Managers are outlined in local SSSS. |

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Helpful Reminders\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**1) Please remember to delete any prompts and / or tables (in dark blue) in the sections above**

**2) Ensure all fonts are now in black**

1. A template SSSS and guidelines are available on the National Health and Safety Function, here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/safetywellbeing/about%20us/>

   2 See link on health and safety web-pages to latest Incident Management Policy [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)