



CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES FACT SHEET

As part of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Recreation Therapy Service, Creative arts therapies are direct-care programs and services in Art Therapy, Dance/Movement Therapy, Drama Therapy, and Music Therapy.

CREATIVE ARTS THERAPISTS

Creative arts therapists are human service professionals who use arts modalities and creative processes to promote wellness, recovery, rehabilitation through unique personal interactions.

Each creative arts therapy discipline has its own set of professional standards and requisite qualifications. Creative arts therapists are highly skilled, credentialed professionals having completed extensive coursework and clinical training.



TREATMENT PLANNING

Qualified creative arts therapists develop treatment goals, provide clinical interventions, monitor and document progress, and serve on interdisciplinary teams.

Therapists plan and carry out treatment interventions to facilitate sensory integration, ambulation, community reentry, and reality orientation; to diminish emotional stress, muscular dysfunction; and to treat psychosocial dysfunction; while providing a sense of achievement and progress and channeling energies into acceptable forms of behavior.

RESEARCH

Research supports the effectiveness of creative arts therapies interventions in many areas, including overall physical rehabilitation and facilitating movement. Creative arts therapies further help patients to increase motivation to become engaged in treatment, provide emotional support for Veterans and their families, and create an outlet to safely express feelings.

Research findings and clinical observations attest to the positive outcomes that can result from creative arts therapies, and especially for those who may be resistive to other treatment approaches.



CARE STANDARDS

Creative arts therapists adhere to standards of care that promote optimal outcomes for patients. Creative arts therapists utilize a wide range of techniques in clinical interventions that emphasize the healing potential and influence of the arts for rehabilitation, recovery, and improved quality of life.

POPULATIONS SERVED

Creative arts therapists create non-threatening group and individual artistic experiences for individuals of all ages who confront life challenges related to physical and mental health conditions, on a daily basis. Creative arts therapists provide and promote creative self-expression that is personally driven and individually focused.



THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS

Creative arts therapists use the techniques, tools, and materials of their unique discipline for therapeutic purposes that promote creative self-expression in order to treat chronic pain, facilitate relaxation, facilitated physical rehabilitation, encourage communication and socialization, and to facilitate cognitive retraining for Veterans with neurocognitive disorders or traumatic brain injury.

In the treatment of substance abuse, art-based techniques provide a unique opportunity to help Veterans break through barriers to the recovery process

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

Art Therapist:

A master's degree or higher from an accredited college or university with a major in art therapy and approved by the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) through June, 2016. After that date, master's degree or higher from an accredited college or university with a major in art therapy and accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Art

Therapy Education (CAATE), a committee of the Commission on Accreditation on Allied Health Education Program (CAAHEP).

Dance/Movement Therapist:

A master's degree or higher from an accredited college or university with a major or an emphasis in Dance therapy or Dance/ Movement therapy approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA).

Drama Therapy:

A master's degree or higher from an accredited college or university with a Drama degree program approved by the North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA).

Music Therapist:

A bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university in Music Therapy or in Music with an emphasis in Music Therapy approved by the National Association for Schools of Music (NASM) and/or the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA).



CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY ORGANIZATIONS

- American Art Therapy Association, Inc. www.arttherapy.org
- American Dance Therapy Association www.adta.org
- National Association for Drama Therapy, Inc. www.nadt.org
- American Music Therapy Association www.musictherapy.org
- National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies Association, Inc. www.nccata.org

