

Childminder recruitment and retention consultation 10 May 2024.

RCOT response to single issue question -should occupational therapists in primary care be able to make health declarations for prospective childminders?

To what extent do you agree or disagree that we should expand the range of regulated health care professionals, working within a GP surgery, who can complete health declarations for prospective childminders to include: (Strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, strongly disagree, don't know options for all of the below).

- nurses?
- pharmacists?
- occupational therapists? - AGREE
- paramedics?

Please explain your responses below (limited to 3000 characters).

Between March and May 2024, RCOT consulted with our occupational therapy members about the question above. The responses were positive and indicated that occupational therapists in primary care should be able to complete health declarations for prospective childminders. Our members gave three main reasons for this:

1. Occupational therapists have a holistic skill set that means they can take a person's health conditions into consideration and evaluate how they may perform at work. They can advise about strategies or modifications that may help the person do a job despite injury, illness, or disability, if it's appropriate and safe to do so. They also have a good understanding of the relationship between the work environment, workplace demands and the human body (whether that be physical or psychological demands/limitations).
2. Carrying out prospective childminder health checks would be a natural fit and extension of the work already carried out by occupational therapists in primary care to issue fit notes. This was after a similar legislation change in 2022, that widened the named, regulated professions that can complete the fit note.
3. Many of our members are parents/caregivers and guardians themselves who require childcare to work as occupational therapists. They are aware of the childcare crisis and knock on impact it has on the workforce. They see being able to complete health checks for prospective childminders as a way to improve childcare provision and make it more accessible (and safe) by ensuring qualified clinicians can support that first step.

For more information about the [occupational therapy role in primary care](#) contact genevieve.smyth@rcot.co.uk