What is an OT home assessment?

- A **home assessment** is carried out when there is an identified need for occupational therapy intervention within the patients’ home environment. The Senior Occupational therapist will make this decision.

- The home assessment can be carried out by the occupational therapist with or without the patient present depending on the purpose of the visit and should take an approximate time period of 1 to 1.5 hours, depending on the geographical location.

- If the patient is present during the home assessment we ask that a family member provides transport to and from the hospital however if the occupational therapist is travelling alone transport will be arranged from the hospital.

- Home assessments will not be carried out on the day of discharge and patients will need to return to the hospital with the occupational therapist to be formally discharged by their medical team.

- The two options for equipment provisions identified as necessary on the home assessment are either via:

  1. Community Occupational Therapy team (HSE)
  2. Private Purchase via Healthcare Suppliers

- Informed consent is required from the patient prior to a home assessment being carried out.

- If the patient is not present on the visit then they must arrange for the next of kin, family or friend to be present to supervise the visit.

**Which locations qualify for a home assessment?**
Patient Education

- The occupation therapist will only carry out home assessments to patients who live within a 20k radius of the hospital.
- If a patient lives outside of this radius and is appropriate for a home assessment a community referral will be placed with their local health service.

What is the Housing Adaptation Grant?

- The occupational therapy home assessment report completed can be used in the application process for the ‘Housing Adaptation Grant’ or ‘Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme’ if minor adaptations are required within the home environment. These grants are available through your local City/County Council and it is advisable that you make contact with your local Council office to get specific information regarding requirements for grant applications.

- The grant can help you to finance modifications and adaptations to your home, for example, making it wheelchair-accessible, extensions to create more space, adding a ground floor bathroom or toilet and stair-lifts. In some cases, the provision of heating can be included but only under certain conditions. Contact your local authority for more details.

If you have any further queries please contact the occupational therapist on 01 2936692.