

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision and medical direction, an incumbent in this class performs physical and rehabilitation therapy on patients in accordance with the diagnosis and prescription of referring physicians. Treatment is provided in a hospital, health facility or patient's home; does related work as required. Supervision is not a function of this class. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Takes patient histories and performs physical assessment to evaluate physical conditions and to adjust therapy plans;

Evaluates the need for and determines proper rehabilitation equipment and prostheses needed by the patient to improve mobility;

Observes patient responses to therapy and makes referrals to the appropriate discipline for treatment, if needed;

Utilizes appropriate equipment for maximum functioning of the patient;

Administers and teaches muscle re-education, therapeutic exercise, coordination and balance exercises, relaxation techniques, and all forms of neuro-muscular facilitation;

Administers hydro-therapy including whirlpool bath, hot and cold packs, contrast baths, and instructs patients in their use;

Instructs patients in the use and care of prostheses including canes, crutches, braces and/or artificial limbs;

Administers Infra-red Heating, Diathermy, Ultraviolet, Ultrasound, and Electrodiagnostic treatments when indicated;

Instructs patients in the goals and procedures used in their rehabilitation program to promote understanding, motivation, and self-sufficiency;

Maintains accurate patient records and statistics;

May participate in the on-the-job clinical training of physical therapy students;

Serves as resource person for other health care staff, family members, and referring physicians or agency staff;

May use computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail or database software in performing work assignments;

Accesses protected health information (PHI) in accordance with departmental assignments and guidelines defining levels of access (i.e. incidental vs. extensive);

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, neurology, neurophysiology, electro-therapy and physics; knowledge of clinical pathology, pharmacology and psychology; knowledge of the modern physical medicine equipment including care and maintenance of such equipment; knowledge of the modern physical therapy techniques and procedures including knowledge of advancement in prosthetics and orthotics; ability to prepare reports and keep accurate patient records; ability to set up and carry out a rehabilitation program based on diagnosis obtained from a physician; ability to relate to physicians, co-workers, patients and their families and other community personnel; ability to read, write, speak, understand, and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential duties of the position; ability to effectively use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments; integrity; initiative; tact; reliability; physical condition commensurate with the requirements of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Either: (a) at time of temporary appointment must possess* a limited permit to practice Physical Therapy, issued by the New York State Education Department, and must have applied for or taken the licensing examination for Physical Therapy, or (b) at time of permanent appointment must possess license and current registration, issued by the New York State Education Department, as a Physical Therapist.

*SPECIAL NOTE: If the candidate is a graduate of an approved physical therapy program and indicates that they have submitted applications and fees for both the licensing examination and limited permit, then they may practice under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist. This exemption is only valid for up to 90 days after the date of graduation.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: If assigned to the Health Department, must possess a valid, current license to operate a motor vehicle in the State of New York.