

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist, an incumbent of this position is responsible for implementing prescribed physical therapy programs using diverse modalities, exercise and ambulation as assigned by the Supervising Physical Therapist. This class differs from the Physical Therapist in that the duties of a Physical Therapy Assistant shall not include evaluation, testing, interpretation, planning or modification of patient programs. Supervision is not a responsibility of this class. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Provides patients with treatment using proper techniques and modalities such as hot packs, cold packs, ultrasound, high and low volt electrical stimulation, diathermy, whirlpool, paraffin, and other such therapeutic modalities;

Instructs patients in home treatment programs and adaptive techniques in preparation for discharge and as part of on-going therapy;

Assists patients in performing prescribed exercise programs i.e. passive range of motion, active assistive exercise, active exercise, progressive resistive exercise;

Assists the licensed professional Physical Therapist in analyzing patient's gait training to determine progress of therapy;

Instructs patients in proper ambulation techniques;

Instructs patients in transfer training, i.e., getting in and out of chairs, bed;

Assists the licensed professional Physical Therapist in determining the proper equipment to be used by patients;

Observes and documents patient reactions to prescribed therapies;

Reports information and observations to the supervising Physical Therapist;

Confers with the supervising Physical Therapist, as designated, on all matters dealing with questions, problems and progress in connection with any physical therapy program;

Maintains physical therapy equipment and equipment area;

Maintains proper clinical records and daily statistical information;

Performs related duties to insure adequate and effective services to patients, as directed by the supervising Physical Therapist;

Attends staff conferences and in service training programs, as assigned.

Accesses protected health information (PHI) in accordance with departmental assignments and guidelines defining levels of access;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Cont'd)

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

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of the principles, theory and techniques of physical therapy; good knowledge of physical therapy modalities for indication and contra-indications; ability to operate and maintain physical therapy equipment; ability to observe, record and report patients' physical abilities and reactions; ability to instruct, motivate and work well with patients; ability to relate well with physicians, co-workers and other health professionals; 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; resourcefulness; initiative; 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 as a Physical Therapy Assistant, issued by the New York State Education department, and must have applied for or taken the licensing examination for Physical Therapy Assistant; or (b) at time of permanent appointment, must possess license and current registration, issued by the New York State Education Department, as a Physical Therapy Assistant.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Must maintain registration with New York State to remain in good standing as a Physical Therapy Assistant.