

STAFF PHYSICAL THERAPIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision and medical direction, an incumbent in this class provides physical and rehabilitation therapy to the physically disabled to improve patients' physical capabilities within the limits of the injury or disability. Treatment is provided in hospitals, homes, schools, health facilities and district offices. Incumbents interview and evaluate patients' physical status and establish treatment plans with various therapeutic remedies to meet the specific needs of the patients. The incumbent regularly confers with patient's physician and family, advising them of the patient's therapeutic program, progress, goals and discharge plan. The incumbent works with minimal supervision and exercises independent judgment in carrying out assigned tasks. Supervision may be over Physical Therapists, students, assistants and aides. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Interviews patients and families, makes physical assessment and establishes a treatment plan to maximize patient's functional capabilities;

Tests patient's range of motion and muscle strength, and evaluates daily living activities to ascertain the type of therapeutic remedy (i.e., exercise, transfer training, gait training, modality therapy, heat and cold therapy) needed to meet the needs of the patient;

Documents and maintains daily activity reports on patients' progress and treatment, reports visits and therapy performed and denotes patients response to treatments, as regulated by law;

Teaches patients, families and aides types of treatment procedures to prevent injury and promote patient safety and progress;

Confers with and advises patient's physician(s) of therapeutic findings, goals and discharge plans;

Trains health professionals, community groups and interested parties in therapeutic activities and practices to promote awareness and understanding;

Observes mental and physical behavior of patients and makes referrals to appropriate disciplines for treatment;

Administers and teaches muscle re-education, therapeutic exercise, coordination and balance exercises, relaxation techniques, and all forms of neuromuscular facilitation depending on the patient's needs and in accordance with departmental procedures;

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

Instructs patients in the use of prostheses including canes, crutches, braces and artificial limbs to improve mobility;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only) (Cont'd.)

Observes patients' response to treatment, evaluates effectiveness of program and makes adjustments as needed;

Instructs physical therapy procedures to students and fellow health professionals.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, neurology, neurophysiology, electro-therapy and physics; good knowledge of the latest physical therapy techniques and procedures including knowledge of advancement in prosthetics and orthotics; good knowledge of clinical pathology, pharmacology and psychology; good knowledge of the latest physical medicine equipment including care and maintenance of such equipment; ability to interpret, instruct, demonstrate and supervise physical therapy programs to nurses, home health aides, patients and family members; ability to prepare reports and keep accurate case histories; ability to develop and implement rehabilitation programs; ability to relate to physicians, co-workers, patients and their families and other community personnel; integrity; initiative; tact; reliability; physical condition commensurate with the requirements of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Either: (a) at time of permanent appointment, must possess a license and current registration, issued by the New York State Education Department, as a Physical Therapist, and have two years experience as a licensed physical therapist; or (b) at time of temporary appointment must possess a license as a Physical Therapist from a state other than New York, and must also possess a limited permit to practice Physical Therapy, issued by the New York State Education Department, and have two years of experience as a licensed physical therapist.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: If assigned to the Health Department, must possess a valid New York State Driver's License.