

**CLASS TITLE:****PHYSICAL THERAPIST  
(HABILITATIVE/REHABILITATIVE)**

Class Code: 02801600

Pay Grade: 32A

EO: B

**CLASS DEFINITION:**

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES:** To apply physical therapy evaluation and treatment techniques, including hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, thermotherapy, massage and therapeutic exercise to the special needs of people with an intellectual and developmental disability or a physical disability, particularly in regard to posture, gross function and mobility; to consult with and provide assistance to education and treatment professionals in various specialized treatment settings; to provide education and support to clients' families and support groups; to provide clinical education as part of student programs; and to do related work as required.

**SUPERVISION RECEIVED:** Receives general or specific instruction from medical staff or a superior physical therapist as to type of therapeutic evaluations and treatment required; individually responsible for administering physical therapy treatments; work is reviewed in process and upon completion for conformity with instructions and progress made.

**SUPERVISION EXERCISED:** As required, may supervise and/or coordinate the activities of consultant physical therapists, less senior physical therapists and student affiliates as well as paraprofessional, technical and clerical assigned.

**ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:**

To apply physical therapy evaluation and treatment techniques including hydrotherapy, electrotherapy, thermotherapy, massage and therapeutic exercise based on assessment procedures and medical staff consultation to people with an intellectual and developmental disability or a physical disability.

To design individual physical therapy treatment plans for patients who exhibit physical dysfunction, maladaptive behaviors and/or severe to profound learning disabilities.

To administer physical treatment modalities such as muscle reeducation, gait analysis, prosthetic training, therapeutic massage, heat, light, water, electricity or sound for the purpose of correcting or alleviating physical and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

To analyze and assess dysfunction and disability and to aide in the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with disabilities.

To design therapeutic exercise program to be followed in home settings which could alleviate disability experienced as a result of disease or trauma.

To assess the therapeutic equipment needs of clients, facilitate prescription of equipment and coordinate its acquisition and the day-to-day use of such equipment as bracing, custom wheelchairs, seating devices and adaptive living aids.

To participate in staff conferences, rounds and clinics as required.

To participate in training of therapy aides, physical therapy students and others as required.

To accurately document evaluations and physical therapy treatments in patient medical records.

To provide ongoing in-service training to support staff.

To provide family training and education as appropriate.

To perform living area evaluations in a variety of settings.

To do related work as required.

## **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:**

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES:** A thorough knowledge of evaluations, principles of treatment techniques and equipment used in the application of physical therapy; a thorough knowledge of precautions and potential hazards involved in physical therapy treatment; the ability to administer physical therapy treatment and evaluation procedures with people with an intellectual and developmental disability or a physical disability; the ability to observe reactions and status of patients during the treatment; the ability to gain confidence and cooperation of clients, their families, teachers and therapists; the ability to adjust and make minor repairs to physical therapy equipment and apparatus; the ability to instruct others assigned to assist with physical therapy tasks; a working knowledge of special needs and problems of people with an intellectual and developmental disability or a physical disability; and related capacities and abilities.

## **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

**Education:** Such as may have been gained through: graduation from a program of physical therapy which is accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council of Post-Secondary Accreditation; eligibility for membership with the American Physical Therapy Association; and

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** Must meet established requirements for licensing of physical therapists administered by the Rhode Island Department of Health and must maintain licensure as a condition of employment.

Class Created: July 12, 1992

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Class Revised: May 12, 2019