

CLASS TITLE: PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Class Code: 02801101
Pay Grade: 20A
EO: E

CLASS DEFINITION:

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: To apply routine physical therapy procedures and modalities to patients or clients under the direction of legally qualified physical therapists or medical staff; and to do related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the general and specific direction of a licensed physical therapist or medical staff; assists registered physical therapists in individual case treatment; reports patient status to supervisory staff; work is reviewed through periodic reports and conferences with supervisors.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: May directly supervise patients or clients in therapeutic exercise or other physical therapy modalities.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:

To apply routine physical therapy procedures and modalities to patients/clients under the direction of legally qualified physical therapists or medical staff.

To assist patients/clients to achieve functional goals through application of physical therapy modalities as directed by a legally qualified physical therapist or medical staff.

To follow established procedures pertaining to maintenance, adjustment, assembly and disassembly of physical therapy equipment.

To perform predetermined clerical procedures related to patient treatment and medical record status notes.

To observe precautions related to therapeutic exercise and physical therapy procedures.

To assist with transfers of patients to and from treatment areas.

To be responsible for safety and care of patients assigned by a physical therapist or medical staff.

To do related work as required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES: A familiarity with physical therapy treatments, equipment, accessories, modalities and precautions as applied to patients/clients; the ability to gain cooperation and confidence of patients/clients; the ability to accept and follow specific oral and written directions from legally qualified physical therapists and/or medical staff; ability to learn and perform specific tasks related to adjustment of equipment in physical therapy; the ability to assist the physical therapist in achieving therapeutic patient goals; basic knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, medical terminology and disability; ability to orally report at team conferences; and related capacities and abilities.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Such as may have been gained through: graduation from a program of instruction approved by the American Physical Therapy Association for Physical Therapy Assistants; or its equivalent; and

Experience: Such as may have been gained through: one (1) year of employment in a physical therapy program in a public or private hospital, rehabilitation center or other institution.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education and experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Must meet the established requirements for the licensing of physical therapy assistants administered by the Rhode Island Department of Health and must maintain such licensure as a condition of employment. At the time of appointment, must be physically qualified to perform assigned duties as evidenced by a physician's certificate.

Class Revised: October 7, 1990

Editorial Review: 3/15/03