

CLASS TITLE: VISION, REHABILITATION, ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SPECIALIST

Class Code: 02834200
Pay Grade: 27A
EO: B

CLASS DEFINITION:

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: To be responsible for providing mobility instruction and orientation to individuals with blindness and low vision in the community, home, schools, work centers and industry; to provide assessment, instruction and training to individuals who are blind or visually impaired using a sequential process, in which individuals are taught to utilize their remaining senses to determine their position orientation within their environment, and to negotiate safe movement from one place to another; and to do related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the general supervision of a superior with considerable latitude for the exercise of independent judgment; work is subject to review upon completion for conformance to agency policies and results obtained.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: Functions as a lead worker by teaching, coaching and mentoring others involving procedures and techniques to be followed in the mobility and sense training of individuals with blindness or low vision.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:

To be responsible for providing mobility instruction and orientation to individuals with blindness and low vision in the community, home, schools, work centers and industry.

To provide assessment, instruction and training to individuals who are blind or visually impaired using a sequential process, in which individuals are taught to utilize their remaining senses to determine their position orientation within their environment, and to negotiate safe movement from one place to another.

To develop plans for Orientation and Mobility assessments and programs which include obtaining and interpreting medical reports, educational reports, rehabilitation reports, interviewing the consumers and families, and selecting appropriate assessment tools, materials, activities, and settings for each plan.

To assess the consumer's present level of physical capacity in each of the following areas concerning their orientation and mobility skills: vision, senses, social/emotional issues, concepts/cognition, medical and physical limitations and personal goals.

To determine the consumer's orientation and mobility needs and make recommendations for services, mobility devices and/or systems (e.g., long cane, etc.), and additional assessments.

To conduct ongoing assessments to monitor progress.

To determine the need for changes in instructional strategy or in the orientation and mobility program; to facilitate increased developmental and physical progress, and to determine when the patient's skill level has progressed sufficiently to change the Orientation and Mobility Rehabilitation strategy.

To teach concept development involving imparting an understanding of body image, spatial awareness and orientation, temporal, positional, directional, and environmental concepts.

To provide instruction to facilitate the development of Orientation and Mobility capacity-related concepts involving the body, environmental orientation and spatial orientation.

To teach life skill concepts related to Orientation and Mobility instruction such as money organization, social skills and time management.

To teach orientation strategies and skills as well as to develop orientation skills using environmental features using the sun, sounds, slopes and other environmental features.

To conduct training related to motor development including but not limited to motor skills needed for balance, posture and gait, as well as the use of adaptive devices and techniques, to assist those with multiple disabilities.

To facilitate the use of sensory development including visual, auditory, vestibular, kinesthetic, tactile, olfactory, and proprioceptive senses, and the interrelationships of these systems.

To conduct Residual Vision Stimulation and training, the Human Guide Technique and the Upper and Lower Protective Techniques.

To train patients in various rehabilitative tasks involving locating dropped objects, Trailing, Squaring-off, Cane techniques, Soliciting/Declining Assistance, following directions, utilizing landmarks, search patterns, and compass direction.

To teach route planning, analysis and identification of intersections and traffic patterns, using traffic control devices, street crossing techniques, and the use of public transportation.

To train patients to travel in indoor environments and a variety of outdoor environments such as residential, small and large business districts, mall travel, and rural areas.

To familiarize patients in the use of sun filters for the reduction of glare.

To instruct patients to use low vision devices.

To instruct individuals with blindness or visual impairment to develop digital computer skills such as knowledge of computer technology and its application to various occupations.

To instruct such individuals in the use of typing and computer techniques and a variety of assistive technology including iOS or Android platforms and mobile applications.

To train patients in the use of adaptive equipment and software capable of enlarging printed text or voice activated computer functions to generate written e-mails, word documents and texted material.

To prepare written reports, utilize a computerized case management system, keep case records, case histories and handle correspondence.

To conduct in-service training sessions.

To provide instruction on adaptive techniques for activities of daily living such as homemaking, food preparation, housekeeping, leisure-time activities, social engagement and advocacy.

To counsel and inform patients concerning the use and acquisition of special aids and appliances.

To keep current and informed of advances in adaptive equipment technology and software and their compatibility with existing systems, to provide training on the latest equipment technology.

To do related work as required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES: A thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques used in teaching and reinforcing Orientation and Mobility instruction across a range of environments; a thorough knowledge of the concepts related to independent movement and orientation; a thorough knowledge of mobility techniques; a thorough knowledge of orientation skills; a thorough knowledge of the use of low vision devices and associated technology used in maintaining safe and independent movement and orientation; a thorough knowledge of the use of optical and non-optical devices in conjunction with the treatment of patients by eye care professionals; a thorough knowledge of instructional methods involved in the use of visual skills; a thorough knowledge of the use of non-visual senses used in maintaining safe and independent movement and orientation; the ability to teach monitoring and safety skills to patients to ensure patients learn to independently and effectively monitor their orientation and mobility skills; the ability to recognize potentially dangerous situations and intervene as appropriate to ensure student/patient safety; the ability to teach and facilitate patient/student independence and problem-solving ability across a variety of travel situations and environments; the ability to demonstrate professionalism and professional conduct consistent with the Code of Ethics for Orientation & Mobility Specialists; the ability to identify, locate and utilize appropriate resources; the ability to be punctual concerning the scheduling of patient/student appointments; the ability to follow and maintain appropriate recordkeeping and reporting procedures; the ability to keep current and informed of advances in adaptive equipment technology, software, and compatibility with existing systems; the ability to comply with basics laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and techniques pertaining to the use of adaptive technology and other such mobility and orientation techniques; and related capacities and abilities.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Possession of a bachelor's degree from a college of recognized standing with specialization in Orientation and Mobility, Vision Studies, Rehabilitation Services or a closely related field.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: At the time of appointment and continually thereafter as a condition of employment, must possess and maintain Certification as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS certification).

Class Revised: December 28, 1968

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