

## PHYSICAL THERAPY TECHNICIAN

### DESCRIPTION OF WORK

This is skilled work in assisting physical therapists in the administration of physical therapy treatments in a State institution or local agency.

Employees assist staff therapists in a State institution, hospital, or local agency in the administration of routine physical therapy treatments and treatment programs. All treatments and treatment programs are prescribed by a physician and established by a staff therapist. Assignments are made by a supervisor or higher level therapist or assistant. Employees work under direct supervision in performing routine treatments. Work is reviewed and evaluated by physicians and staff therapists through observation of work, analysis of reports, periodic conferences and patients' progress.

### EXAMPLES OF DUTIES PERFORMED

Administers various types of physical therapy treatments such as gait training including crutch, parallel bars, prosthetic devices, hydro-therapy, bandaging, mat exercises, postural drainage, active/passive and restrictive exercises, tilt table, and muscle strengthening and conditioning; programs are designed by the physical therapist.

Instructs patients in activities of daily living such as moving from bed to chair, chair to walker, eating, and personal hygiene, and advises therapist of findings.

Prepares schedules for patient treatments with cooperation of staff therapist or assistants.

Writes and records progress notes on patient treatments for review by therapist and/or physician.

Attends and participates in unit and ward meetings; exchanges information with physicians, ward, and unit personnel.

Assists in the maintenance, care, and cleaning of equipment and supplies.

Attends in-service training and demonstrations relative to physical therapy.

Instructs ward and unit personnel on techniques and special handling procedures as necessary for the continued improvement and safety of patients.

Performs related duties as required.

### RECRUITMENT STANDARDS

#### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Some knowledge of physical therapy principles, techniques, methods, modalities and their proper application.

Some knowledge of functional anatomy, physiology, and skeletal biomechanics.

Skill in the administration of or assistance with routine physical therapy treatment.

Ability to recognize basic patient vital signs.

Ability to report patient progress through oral and written communications.

Ability to work effectively with patients of various ages, mental competence and physical disabilities.

#### Minimum Education and Experience

High school or General Educational Development diploma and one year of health care experience and one year of on-the-job training in occupational therapy; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

#### Minimum Education and Experience for a Trainee Appointment

High school or General Educational Development diploma and one year of health care experience work to enter a one-year on-the job training program; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.