

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT II

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

This is highly skilled, independent work in assisting physical therapists in the administration of a broad variety of physical therapy treatments with critical or complex patients or working with the design and adaptation of special adaptive equipment in a state institution or local agency.

Employees assist physical therapists in planning, implementing and evaluating patient treatment programs in a specialized area or independently design and adapt specialized equipment and devices. All treatments and programs are prescribed by a physician and established by a staff therapist. Employees work independently in carrying out treatments and other duties as directed, exercising considerable judgment in altering treatment plans based on the patient's progress or needs. Work is reviewed by physicians and staff therapists through observation of work, analysis of reports, periodic conferences and patient progress.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES PERFORMED

Administers or assists with various types of physical therapy treatments and programs that are established by the physical therapist such as infrared, sonic heat, paraffin baths, gait training including crutch, parallel bars, and prosthetic devices, hydrotherapy, bandaging, mat exercises, postural drainage, active/passive and restrictive exercises, muscle strengthening and conditioning ultraviolet lamp, tilt table and hubbard tubs; works independently with patients with a complex diagnosis.

Measures patients for the design, adaptation and modification of specialized adaptive equipment requiring considerable knowledge of the disabilities; works independently in this area of specialty.

Assists therapists in planning and evaluating treatment programs.

Provides training and demonstration of techniques to ward and unit personnel on physical therapy treatments and programs; assists with in-service education and training of new employees and students.

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

Prepares schedules for patient treatments with staff therapist or schedule for individual unit.

Records progress notes in patients' departmental charts and unit treatment team book.

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

Attends in-service training and demonstrations relative to physical therapy and provides training and demonstration techniques of some physical therapy treatment to ward or unit personnel and lower-level technicians.

Requisitions supplies used in daily activities with approval of supervisor.

Performs related duties as required.

RECRUITMENT STANDARDS

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities

Considerable knowledge of physical therapy principles, techniques, methods, modalities, and their proper application in the area of specialty.

General knowledge of functional anatomy, physiology and skeletal biomechanics.

Skill in the administration of the routine to complex physical therapy treatments.

Skill in the design, adaptation and modification of specialized adaptive equipment.

Ability to recognize patients' vital signs.

Ability to report patient progress through oral and written communications.

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Ability to teach physical therapy treatments to medical personnel and students.
Ability to instruct and supervise physical therapy technician and assistant students in physical therapy techniques and methods.

Minimum Training and Experience

Licensed as a Physical Therapist Assistant in the State of North Carolina and two years of experience as a physical therapist assistant; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Special Note - This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential functions per ADA. Examples of work are primarily essential functions of the majority of positions in this class, but may not be applicable to all positions.