

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: Applies physical therapy treatments to patients* or assists in their application in a health care facility under the supervision of a qualified Physical Therapist; does related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a skilled subprofessional position involving responsibility for assisting a Physical Therapist with the treatment and prevention of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disabilities by the application of direct physical therapy procedures to patients. The work is performed under the supervision of a qualified Physical Therapist who evaluates the patient, develops the treatment plan and designates specific responsibility to the Assistant. A Physical Therapist is readily available at all times for directions and assistance. Supervision may be exercised over one or more Physical Therapy Aides.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative only)

- Applies heat, cold, electricity, light, water treatments, massage, therapeutic exercise, training in phases of ambulation and other activities of daily living according to the Physical Therapist's direction;
- Observes, records and reports patients' reactions to treatments and programs;
- Prepares, sets up and maintains physical therapy treatment areas and equipment;
- Provides for and observes safety precautions during all phases of treatment;
- Confers periodically with the Physical Therapist regarding all facets of patient care and related activities;
- Participates with other personnel in the formulation of the patients' total health care plans when appropriate;
- Inventories, cleans, stores and otherwise maintains supplies and equipment;
- Supervises Physical Therapy Aides as directed by the Physical Therapist;
- Performs record keeping functions related to maintenance and execution of the physical therapy program.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND ABILITIES: Working knowledge of the principles, techniques and terminology of physical therapy; working knowledge of the operation and maintenance of apparatus and equipment used in physical therapy; working knowledge of human anatomy and physiology; working knowledge of the concepts and scope and limitations of physical therapy; sufficient physical strength to support and lift adult patients; ability to follow oral and written instructions; ability to plan and supervise the work of aides; skill in observing and recording patients' responses to treatments; good physical condition.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Certification and current registration by the New York State Education Department as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

*The term "patient" should be changed to "resident" when position is used in health-related facilities.