

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

The LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT performs established physical therapy treatments under the supervision of a Physical Therapist. Those treatments are designed to facilitate or restore physical function, relieve pain, and maximize the capabilities of patients with physical disabilities, disorders, or injuries.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This is a single classification and not currently part of a series of classes.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.**Treatment Planning.** Typical tasks: assists Physical Therapist by reporting and recording patient's/resident's progress to aid in ongoing assessment and modification of treatment plan; makes observations throughout the course of treatment and reports changes which affect treatment plan; distinguishes problems which require immediate intervention; reports to Physical Therapist for treatment plan modification; may choose appropriate therapy techniques and activities from established plan to meet specified goals.
- 2.**Patient Treatment.** Typical tasks: schedules treatment time; prepares treatment area by setting up mats, treatment tables, weights, parallel bars, and other equipment used in providing therapy; prepares assigned patients for therapy; provides hands-on therapy per Physical Therapist instruction (e.g., ice packs, moist heat, ultrasound, soft tissue massage, paraffin, ultraviolet, electrotherapy, hydrotherapy, traction); instructs and assists patient in use of range of motion devices, muscle reeducation, neurodevelopmental techniques, relaxation training, and ambulation/gait training; makes adaptations and adjustments to equipment to meet individual patient needs.
- 3.**Documentation.** Typical tasks: reports patient's/resident's progress to Physical Therapist; documents patient chart with the type of treatment given and patient's response to the treatment; documents contact with staff, family, and community which is relevant to patient's treatment and needs; keeps Physical Therapist informed as to patient's changing needs; maintains patient/resident treatment schedule and daily attendance records; compiles data and assists staff in evaluation of service, quality of service reviews, or accrediting reviews as needed.
- 4.**Training.** Typical tasks: may train direct care staff in the techniques of proper lifting and positioning of patients and on the basic care of wheelchairs, braces, and other equipment used by patients; may provide in-service training to direct care staff on individual resident's-patient's needs and problems as delegated by Physical Therapist.
- 5.**Miscellaneous.** Typical tasks: prepares work orders for repairs to broken or unsafe equipment; prepares written requests for adaptive equipment needed for assigned patients as delegated by Physical Therapist; maintains and improves professional proficiency by attending in-service training programs and reviewing current physical therapy literature; cleans work area and equipment.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Employees in this class have in-person contact for most of the workday with patients/residents with physical disabilities, disorders, or injuries for the purpose of providing physical therapy treatment. Employees in this class also have regular in-person contact with Physical Therapist and medical staff to discuss treatment programs and patient's progress. Some employees in this class provide in-service training to direct care staff on a regular basis as delegated by Physical Therapist. Employees in this class have contact with the community in coordinating equipment needs or in providing information at the direction of the Physical Therapist.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

These employees work under the general supervision of a therapy supervisor or manager who assigns work verbally and occasionally in writing. Individual treatment techniques are reviewed 2-3 times a week to assure quality of work performed meets physical therapy standards. Weekly meetings are held with employees to review patient progress. Progress notes and treatment programs are reviewed monthly to ensure adherence to laws and rules regulating physical therapy services.

Guidelines for decisions regarding physical therapy treatment and evaluation activities include American Physical Therapy Association standards, State laws governing physical therapy treatment, departmental procedures manual, and administrative rules and policies.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Positions in this classification are primarily found in health care facilities and hospitals and require the willingness to work in the environment associated with the position's location and purpose. Physical therapy treatments may be administered in a physical therapy department, on ward, outdoors, or in a swimming pool.

Some positions need the willingness to work with patients who may become aggressive and/or have communicable diseases.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (KSA)

Basic knowledge of anatomy, neuroanatomy, kinesiology, and physiology.
Basic knowledge of physical therapy treatment techniques, methods, and principles.

Basic knowledge of proper fit of wheelchairs, adaptive shoes, braces, and splints.

Basic knowledge of proper lifting techniques.

Basic knowledge of medical terminology and medical record keeping.

Skill in recognizing therapy treatments which contribute toward established goals.

Skill in operating and maintaining physical therapy equipment.

Skill in using treatment modalities, such as ultrasound, electrotherapy, hot and cold packs, traction, massage, hydrotherapy, and ultraviolet.

Skill in charting treatment notes and preparing written reports of patient progress.

Skill in following written treatment plan.

Skill in demonstrating the techniques of physical therapy.
Skill in providing treatment to patients who may become aggressive and/or have communicable diseases.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with professional and direct care staff.
Ability to communicate verbally with professional staff and direct care staff.
Ability to frequently lift up to 100 pounds.
Ability to recognize patient's need for progression through the prescribed plan.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATION

Possession of a valid Physical Therapist Assistant license (or other valid authorization) issued by the Oregon Physical Therapy Licensing Board.

NOTE: The KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS are required for initial consideration. ABILITIES may be required for initial consideration, at any time during the selection process, or during a trial service period as a final stage of the selection process. Some duties performed by positions in this class may require different KSA's. No attempt is made to describe every KSA required for **all** positions in this class. Additional KSA requirements will be explained on the recruiting announcement.

Adopted 1/89

Revised

Examples of work are typical of duties assigned to this class. No attempt is made to describe every duty performed by all positions in this class.