

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

The REHABILITATION THERAPIST provides individualized assessments and treatment programs of therapeutic recreation, music therapy, and/or art therapy. These specialized treatment services are goal-oriented and directed toward rehabilitation and modification of specific physical, emotional, mental, or social behaviors.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

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

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Allocation of positions to this class will depend on the total work performed which may include one or a combination of the duties or tasks listed below.

- 1. Patient Assessments.** Typical tasks: gathers information on needs, interests, life experience, deficiencies, and recreational background of residents/ patients to provide an initial and comprehensive assessment; selects appropriate treatment services; observes resident's adjustment, behavior, and interaction with peers to assess needs of resident in relationship to group activity development; assesses resident's/patient's skills, proficiencies, and knowledge level of program resources (e.g., music, art, leisure activities) to establish appropriate participation level; measures current functioning needs, skills, and limitations to assign appropriate treatment program.
- 2. Program Design.** Typical tasks: designs and develops individual treatment programs which address patient/resident functional needs; writes individual behavior objectives for residents/patients which define behavioral changes sought; provides treatment services with opportunity to modify behavior; conducts treatment programs to improve functional skills while providing opportunities for social interactions, cooperation, and trust; uses art, music, and/or physical activities to provide positive life experiences, opportunities for self-expression, and nonverbal communication; develops recreational treatment plans or utilizes existing plans for community integration which develop and reinforce appropriate behaviors.
- 3. Documentation.** Typical tasks: develops and maintains documentation strategies and methods which record resident's progress in the program; documents functioning level in the program through written observations; contributes notes of observations and chart information to treatment team discussions to aid in assessing patient's progress; monitors treatment plan and maintains data on patient's progress in accordance with rehabilitation therapy standards.
- 4. Miscellaneous.** Typical tasks: maintains records to plan, interpret, and evaluate services; inventories and requisitions equipment and supplies; attends conferences, professional development seminars, and training classes to increase knowledge and awareness of rehabilitation therapy in areas of recreation, music, and/or art; attends treatment team and/or unit activity staff meetings to increase awareness of residents' needs and progress; recommends individual program adjustments accordingly; directs and trains volunteers and students working in rehabilitative therapy.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Employees in this class may have daily in-person contact with mentally ill, mentally retarded, and/or criminal court-committed residents to provide services. There is occasional contact, in person and in writing, with care providers, parents, and surrogate parents to exchange information on resident behavior, progress, and treatment and to serve on interdisciplinary planning and evaluation teams. There is occasional contact in person with volunteers and students who need direction and training in program activities. There is also regular in-person contact with interdisciplinary staff providing treatment for residents.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Employees in this class receive general supervision from a Supervising Rehabilitative Therapist or designated superior who reviews the work through staff meetings, observation of activities, periodic reviews of residents' files and records, and written treatment program proposals. Work is reviewed to assure that program goals are being met and the level of therapeutic rehabilitation meets the standard desired. Employees in this class follow guidelines and policies as found in Administrative Rules, Patients' Rights Laws, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, Health Care Financing Administration, Therapeutic Activity Procedural Manual, National Professional Associations' (NTRS, NAMT, NATH, ATRA) codes of ethics, and standards of practice in order to gain information and direction in performing their work.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Positions are primarily found in mental health institutions, Department of Corrections' facilities, or hospitals. They require the willingness to work in the environment associated with the position's location and purpose. This may include the willingness to work with incarcerated felons, juveniles with behavior problems, mentally ill, mentally handicapped, and/or the physically limited.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (KSA)

General knowledge of treatment methods of rehabilitation therapies in therapeutic recreation, art, or music.

Basic knowledge of human development and developmental disorders to apply appropriate therapies.

Basic knowledge of specific treatment interventions to improve physical, cognitive, and social affective functioning.

Basic knowledge of potential hazards to patients during treatment and necessary precautionary and remedial measures.

Basic knowledge of community and professional resources available.

Basic knowledge of evaluation techniques used for individual treatment plans.

Basic knowledge of the interdisciplinary team concept.

Skill in assessing resident/patient needs for rehabilitation therapies.

Skill in writing treatment programs using behavioral objectives.

Skill in developing and recording data to measure resident progress.

Skill in exercising group and individual leadership techniques.

Skill in communicating through and interpreting written material.

Skill in communicating verbally with people of differing socioeconomic backgrounds.

Skill in instructing others (patients, students, and volunteers).

Ability to motivate and sustain patients' and/or residents' interests.

Ability to establish priorities and work independently.

Some positions in this class may require one or more of the following:

Ability to obtain certification or registration as an Art Therapist, Music Therapist, or Therapeutic Recreation Specialist.

Ability to obtain a chauffeur's license, advanced lifesaving certification, and/or CPR certification.

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 4/90

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.