

REHABILITATION ASSISTANT

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The Rehabilitation Assistant works in conjunction with the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and the Nursing Departments to assist patients in achieving the most independent level of functioning and well being. The position is under the direct supervision of the Rehabilitation Nurse. This position differs from that of Nursing Assistant in its level of specialization in the rehabilitation field and its greater autonomy. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Serves as liaison between the nursing department and the therapy departments;

Assists the Rehabilitation Nurse in evaluating residents' needs and carries out recommendations in areas such as range motion, positioning, ambulation, and adaptive devices as needed;

Assists residents with transition to floor programs following discharge from therapy;

Assists residents in carrying out their rehabilitation programs as directed by the therapist;

Provides rehabilitation services and devices to identified residents' and record progress;

Plans and leads exercise programs for residents';

Assists in conducting continuing education programs for nurse aide staff;

Makes rounds of units to check the use and operation/condition of adaptive eating devices;

Submits verbal and/or written reports of patients' status to rehabilitation nurse as warranted and assists in devising changes to the individual's program, where appropriate;

May check adaptive devices, make cushions, locate missing equipment, and assist with moving patients;

Attends case conference as Rehab Nurse Representative as warranted.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Working knowledge of basic principles, objectives and terminology of rehabilitative services in a health care facility;

Working knowledge of the operation, care, and storage of equipment used;

Ability to understand the problems and attitudes of ill, aged, and handicapped persons;

Ability to observe and communicate resident's responses to treatment programs;

Ability to motivate and encourage resident's to continue with

rehabilitation regimes;
Ability to prepare and maintains simple non-medical forms and reports;
Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions;
Physical strength to support and/or lift residents;
Must be self motivated with a demonstrated ability to tactfully deal with personnel;
Tact;
Willingness to work with geriatric residents;
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Two years experience as a nursing assistant or helper in a geriatric health care setting.