

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This work involves responsibility for performing skilled sub professional work in the application of physical therapy treatments to patients* or assisting in their application in a health care treatment and prevention of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disabilities by applying direct physical therapy procedures and patients. The work is performed under the direct supervision of a qualified Physical Therapist who evaluates the patient, develops the treatment plan and designates specific responsibility to the Assistant. Supervision may be exercised over one or more Physical Therapist Aides. Does related duties as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Applies heat, cold, electricity, light, water treatment, message, therapeutic exercise, training in phases of ambulation and other activities of daily living according to the Physical Therapist's direction;

Observes, records, and report 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 facility personnel in the formulation of the patients' total health care plans;

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.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

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, scope and limitations of physical therapy;

Physical strength to support and lift adult patients;

Ability to observe, record and report patients' responses to treatment;

Ability to follow oral and written instructions;

Ability to plan and supervise the work of others;

Skill in observing and recording patients' responses to treatments;
Physical condition suitable to the demands of the position.

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.

EXEMPTIONS: NY Code - Section 6741-A: Limited permits.

a. The department shall issue a limited permit to an applicant who meets all requirements for admission to the certification examination.

b. All practice under a limited permit shall be under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist in a public hospital, an incorporated hospital or clinic, a licensed proprietary hospital, a licensed nursing home, a public health agency, a recognized public or non-public school setting, the office of a licensed physical therapist, or in the civil service of the state or political subdivision thereof.

c. Limited permits shall be for six months and the department may for justifiable cause renew a limited permit provided that no applicant shall practice under any limited permit for more than a total of one year.

d. Supervision of a permittee by a licensed physical therapist shall be on-site supervision and not necessarily direct personal supervision.