

## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

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 direction and assistance. Supervision may be exercised over one or more Physical Therapy Aides. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only) Applies heat, cold, electricity, light, water or other appropriate modalities, massage, therapeutic exercise, ambulation training and other therapeutic activities according to the Physical Therapist's direction and plan; Observes, records, and reports patients' response 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; May supervise 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 KNOWLEDGE, 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 and scope and limitations of physical therapy; Sufficient physical strength to support and lift adult patients; Ability to communicate with other personnel as appropriate; 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 commensurate with 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.

Revised 8/3/82

Revised 4/19/99

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