

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a skilled sub-professional 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 for direction and assistance. Supervision may be exercised over subordinates. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: The typical work activities listed below, while providing representative examples of the variety of work assignments in the title, do not describe any individual position. Incumbents in this title may perform some or all of the following as well as other related activities not described.

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

Observes, records and reports 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 personnel in the formulation of the patient's total health care plans when appropriate;

Inventories, cleans, stores and otherwise maintains supplies and equipment;

Supervises subordinates 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; skill in observing and recording patients' responses to treatments; ability to follow oral and written instructions; ability to plan and supervise the work of others; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Certification by the New York State Department of Education to practice as a Physical Therapy Assistant.

ULSTER COUNTY
4800 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
Classification: Competitive
Grade: 14
Union: CSEA

Revised: August 29, 1985
Revised: July 22, 1994