

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

Code No.: 4-08-074

5-16-022

COMPETITIVE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a skilled paraprofessional 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:

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

Observes, records and reports patients' reactions to treatments and equipment, as supervised by a Physical Therapist;

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 where appropriate;

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;

Instructs families in patient treatment and mobility;

Assists with patient home evaluations prior to discharge;

Assists with evaluation and ordering of appropriate functional and mobility aids and provides training in its use;

Attends family conferences to discuss needs of patients and families;

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL

CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of the principles, techniques and terminology of physical therapy; good knowledge of the operation and maintenance of apparatus and equipment used in physical therapy; good knowledge of the concepts and scope and limitations of physical therapy; sufficient physical strength to support and lift adult patients; ability to follow oral and written instructions; ability to plan and supervise the work of aides; 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 Department of Education as a Physical Therapy Assistant.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES

Per Chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district or BOCES as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.

REVISED: October 1, 1981

REVISED: October 11, 1984