



## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT JOB DESCRIPTION

---

### Job Summary:

Physical Therapy Assistants provide a variety of medical services to help individuals who have been injured or physically affected by illness to recover or improve function. Physical therapist assistants provide patients with exercises, massages, electrical stimulation, paraffin baths, hot and cold packs, traction and ultrasound, among other assigned duties. These individuals are also responsible for the monitoring and documentation of patient treatment and response.

### Qualifications:

- Education: High school diploma or equivalent. Associate degree from an accredited physical therapist assistant program preferred.
- Experience: One year full time experience as a Physical Therapy Assistant
- Certification: Current CPR/BLS Certification

### Duties and Responsibilities

The Physical Therapy Assistant is expected to practice safe and ethical care within his/her scope as defined by the State Regulatory Agency under the direction of an Rehabilitation Department Head. The Physical Therapy Assistant should understand his/her own limitations, seeking advice and assistance when necessary. Specific duties may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Demonstrates & articulates sound critical reasoning in treatment planning, implementation and monitoring of patient progress.
- Recognizes when standard patient protocols or treatment plans need modification to meet individual patient needs & reports to therapist.
- Understand the role of therapy in the context of the patient's age, total needs perspective and environment
- Provide direct patient care including exercise techniques, massages, apply hot & cold packs, and apply ultrasound
- Consistently report to physical therapist, patient progress/status to allow for updated of goals and modifications by physical therapist of treatment program
- Work cooperatively with peers to contribute to the overall productivity of the team.
- Actively support and participate in cross coverage efforts in the division. Assist physical therapist's assessment of the learning needs and capabilities of patients and caregivers with regard to age, level of understanding & emotional status.
- Assist physical therapist in utilizing appropriate methods and materials for effective learning, monitoring response to education, and adapting program appropriately.
- Ensure that patient/family understands when and how to receive further treatment.
- Patient care documentation is timely, legible, and efficient.
- Notes are concise, pertinent and meet departmental documentation standards.
- Oral reporting is clear, concise, relevant, and timely.
- Utilize resources and materials in an efficient and safe manner

- Performs all duties promptly in a competent and caring manner
- Present a neat appearance and dress in compliance with the client facilities' policies
- While on assignment, the Physical Therapy Assistant is responsible and accountable to their assigned patients and to the client institution. The Physical Therapy Assistant is under the direct supervision of the Department Head or other assigned personnel and must have the ability to follow directions/instruction from his/her supervisor.

#### **Essential Functions:**

- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing
- Participates in continuing education and learning experiences to enhance and maintain current knowledge and skills for continued competence
- Perform all duties using proper body mechanics
- Frequently move/lift between 50-100 pounds, depending on assignment requirements
- Stand for long periods with frequent squatting, twisting, bending, kneeling and reaching to prepare equipment, materials or objects in order to provide patient care or maintain the patient environment
- Sensory requirements include speech for communication and vision, smell, touch and hearing to assess patient status.
- Problem solving skills
- Manual dexterity and fine motor coordination
- Ability to work in a stressful environment
- Consistent attendance is required to assure that the client facilities' needs and patient needs are met.
- To comply with all client facilities' policies, procedures and practices
- To comply with all client policies and to uphold our standards of excellence while on assignment at our client facilities.

#### **Working Conditions:**

The Physical Therapy Assistant must understand and accept the possibility of exposure to inside environmental conditions, such as noise, infectious/communicable diseases, blood and bloodborne diseases, chemicals and/or chemical fumes, odors, gases and dusts. There is also the possibility of physical injury/verbal abuse from an out of control patient and/or visitor. Frequent exposures to distressed patients, families or visitors.

---