

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The position of Physical Therapist Assistant in various health care settings has specific academic, physical and mental requirements. The PTA must be able to administer and manage patient care and treatment under the direction and supervision of and following evaluation by a Physical Therapist in accordance with the rules of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

Graduate of a Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education accredited program for physical therapist assistants and current license or eligibility for licensure by the State of Texas.

The following skills are required in the Physical Therapist Assistant program as well as in the job setting:

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Satisfactory verbal, reading, and writing skills to effectively and promptly communicate in English
2. Sufficient eyesight to read paper or computer generated medical records; read instrument panels; apply therapeutic modalities such as ice, heat, and electrical stimulation; monitor patients for adverse reactions to treatment; adjust assistive devices; and make visual observations regarding posture and functional abilities such as bed mobility transfers, and ambulation
3. Sufficient hearing to communicate with patients and other members of the health care team, monitor patients by hearing instrument signals and alarms
4. Sufficient smell to assess patient status and maintain a safe practice environment
5. Sufficient fine touch discrimination to palpate pathologic changes in soft tissue
6. Sufficient fine and gross motor coordination to manipulate/operate equipment controls and to perform manual treatment/assessment techniques including, but not limited to, massage, ultrasound, electrical stimulation, stretching, neuromuscular re-education, goniometry, and manual muscle testing
7. Satisfactory physical strength to transport, move or lift patients requiring all levels of assistance and to perform prolonged periods of standing, walking, sitting, bending, crawling, reaching, pushing, and pulling
8. Satisfactory intellectual, emotional, and interpersonal skills to ensure patient safety, to exercise independent judgment and discretion in the performance of assigned responsibilities, and to interact with patients, families, and other health care workers

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS: (other job duties may be required)

1. Administers physical therapy treatment in a safe manner as planned and directed by the Physical Therapist to assist patients to meet the goals defined in the evaluation in accordance with the rules of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.
2. Monitors patient progress and response to physical therapy treatment recognizing and reporting

to the Physical Therapist needs for program change, reassessment, and/or discontinuance of treatment.

3. Documents patient progress and status at discharge in the medical record according to departmental policies.
4. Participates in patient and/or family education which may include instructions in home exercise programs.
5. Provides direct supervision of physical therapy aides when delegating patient treatment.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS:

- Responsibility for own learning
- Commitment to completing the program
- Values congruent with those of health care personnel
- Responsibility for demonstrating attitudes and behaviors expected of the PTA
- Effective interpersonal skills, including sensitivity to diversity
- Responsibility for timely and accurate communication with all individuals involved with the program
- Responsibility for adhering to institutional and program policies and procedures as documented in student handbooks
- Active participation and partnering in the planning and preparation for the clinical education experience
- Awareness that a legal and binding contract exists between the academic program and clinical site
- Responsibility for participation in the ongoing assessment of all aspects of the PTA program