

### Class Concept

Employees in this class assist physical therapists in the administration of a broad variety of physical therapy treatments in a state institution, hospital, or local agency. Employees assist physical therapists in the design and administration of treatment programs. Employees instruct, motivate, safeguard, and assist patients as they practice exercises and functional activities. Patient assignments are made by a supervisor and employees are expected to exercise some initiative and degree of judgment in performing treatments and treatment programs to meet patient needs. Employees in this class work independently in carrying out physical therapy programs as directed. Work is supervised by a Physical Therapist or a Physical Therapy Supervisor.

### Recruitment Standards

#### Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Working knowledge of physical therapy principles, techniques, methods, treatment modalities and their proper application.
- Working knowledge of functional anatomy, physiology and skeletal biomechanics.
- Knowledge of basic computer skills.
- Skill in the administration of routine to complex physical therapy treatments.
- Ability to follow detailed therapy plans and instructions.
- Ability to adapt exercise to specific needs of patient and to recommend therapy changes which facilitate the patient's progress.
- Ability to recognize patients' vital signs.
- Ability to report patient progress through oral and written communications.
- Ability to work effectively with patients of various ages, mental competence and physical disabilities.
- Ability to instruct other staff in physical therapy treatments.

#### Minimum Education and Experience

Licensed as a Physical Therapist Assistant in the State of North Carolina.