

PHYSICAL THERAPIST I

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Work in this class involves the evaluation of patient disabilities and planning for the administration of physical therapy treatments in a State institution or local agency. Employees serve as staff therapists in a State institution or local agency. Work involves administering a wide variety of physical therapy treatments and the supervising and instructing of student interns, assistants, technicians, and other health personnel in areas pertaining to physical therapy. Work is performed under general supervision with all treatments being prescribed by a physician and assignments made by a supervisor, but employees are expected to exercise initiative and discretion in formulating a schedule program of treatments to meet the needs of individual patients. Work is reviewed and evaluated by physicians, higher level therapists, and/or medical directors through personal observation of work, analysis of reports, periodic conferences and as evidenced by patients' progress.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES PERFORMED

Evaluates patient neurological, physical, developmental, perceptual, cognitive, and mental disabilities and writes patient treatment program.
Administers a variety of physical therapy treatment such as infrared, paraffin, diathermy, hydrotherapy, bandaging, splinting, and others.
Instructs patients and patients' families in the continuation of home therapy program as prescribed by a physician either in written form or through demonstration.
Instructs, supervises, and advises training therapists, student interns, and support personnel; reviews their case history reports and recommends necessary changes and improvements.
Makes home visits with public health nurses to administer and teach physical therapy: treatments to patients and patients' families and to help with improvisation of equipment to suit individual needs of patients; may design equipment as needed for individual patients.
Performs related duties as required.

RECRUITMENT STANDARDS

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities

Considerable knowledge of physical therapy principles, techniques, methods, modality and their proper application.
Ability to instruct and supervise subordinate staff members, student interns, and other medical personnel in physical therapy methods and techniques.
Ability to teach physical therapy treatments to patients and patients' families.
Ability to prepare and evaluate reports.
Ability to work effectively with patients, patients' families, medical, nursing, and other staff members and to deal tactfully with the public.

Minimum Education and Experience

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