

MEDICAL THERAPY TECHNICIAN/ASSISTANT

Schematic Code 14700 (31000078)

I. DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Positions in this banded class support and extend the services provided by the physical therapist in the provision of the physical therapy services to patients. Work requires knowledge of the accepted principles and practices of physical therapy. Positions in this banded class assist in planning, implementing and evaluating patient treatment programs. Duties performed include: administration of physical therapy treatments and programs; instructing patients; designing and adapting specialized equipment; recording progress notes; and demonstrating equipment and techniques. Work may include providing instruction to students.

II. ROLE DESCRIPTIONS BY COMPETENCY LEVEL

Contributing	Journey	Advanced
Positions at this level assist in the administration of basic physical therapy treatments. They assist physical therapists in routine treatment activities.	Positions at this level assist in the administration of a broad variety of physical therapy treatments. They assist physical therapists in the design and administration of patient treatment programs. They administer treatment program as prescribed by a physician and established by a physical therapist. Positions at this level can move to the next step of the treatment plan after evaluation of patient progress.	Positions at this level assist physical therapists in planning, implementing and evaluating patient treatment programs in a specialized area or design and adapt specialized equipment and devices. They administer treatment program as prescribed by a physician and established by a physical therapist. Positions at this level can alter treatment plans based on the patient's progress and needs.

III. COMPETENCIES

Competency	Definition
Knowledge - Technical	Technical skill and knowledge in physical therapy assistant work; the ability to learn use and adapt specialized equipment and devices.
Patient Care	Ability to work with patients in a clinical or medical setting. Ability to assist in planning and evaluating treatment programs.
Data Collection	Ability to observe, monitor, collect, and record data. Ability to assess the accuracy, validity and integrity of the data.
Instruction	Ability to instruct and train employees, students, faculty and/or other clients by providing information, including appropriate procedures, practices and/or operation of equipment.

Note: Not all competencies apply to every position/employee; evaluate only those that apply. Competency statements are progressive.

IV. COMPETENCY STATEMENTS BY LEVEL

Knowledge – Technical

Technical skill and knowledge in physical therapy assistant work; the ability to learn use and adapt specialized equipment and devices.

Contributing	Journey	Advanced
<p>Some knowledge of physical therapy principles, techniques, methods, modalities, and their proper application.</p> <p>Basic knowledge of functional anatomy, physiology and skeletal biomechanics.</p> <p>Basic knowledge of disabilities as they relate to treatment planning and the use of equipment.</p>	<p>General knowledge of physical therapy principles, techniques, methods, modalities, and their proper application.</p> <p>General knowledge of functional anatomy, physiology and skeletal biomechanics.</p> <p>General knowledge of disabilities as they relate to treatment planning and the use of equipment.</p>	<p>Thorough knowledge of physical therapy principles, techniques, methods, modalities, and their proper application.</p> <p>Thorough knowledge of functional anatomy, physiology and skeletal biomechanics.</p> <p>Thorough knowledge of disabilities as they relate to treatment planning and the use of equipment.</p>

Patient Care

Ability to work with patients in a clinical or medical setting. Ability to assist in planning and evaluating treatment programs.

Contributing	Journey	Advanced
<p>Ability to prepare patients as directed by others.</p> <p>Ability to communicate effectively with patients about routine treatment activities. May require ability to instruct patients in activities of daily living.</p> <p>Ability to follow established procedures for routine treatment activities.</p> <p>Ability to assist in maintenance, care and cleaning of equipment and supplies.</p>	<p>Ability to prepare patients for evaluation and treatment.</p> <p>Ability to provide information to patients on steps of the treatment program. Ability to communicate effectively with patients about the treatment program.</p> <p>Ability to follow an established treatment program as set forth by a physician or physical therapist; ability to move to the next step based on evaluation of the patient's progress. Ability to formulate schedule of treatments to meet the needs of individual patients.</p> <p>Ability to assist in designing special adaptive equipment.</p> <p>Ability to monitor level of materials and supplies; ability to requisition supplies as needed.</p>	<p>Ability to document and maintain patient care procedures; ability to recommend improvements in patient care procedures.</p> <p>Ability to provide instruction to patients about specialized equipment and techniques. Ability to communicate effectively with patients to assess patient needs.</p> <p>Ability to follow an established treatment program as set forth by a physician or physical therapist; ability to alter treatment plans based on the patient's progress and needs. Ability to prepare schedules for patient treatments in collaboration with the therapist or schedules treatments for the unit.</p> <p>Ability to design, adapt, and modify specialized adaptive equipment to meet patient needs.</p> <p>Ability to maintain adequate supply of materials and supplies used in daily activities.</p>

Data Collection

Ability to observe, monitor, collect, and record data. Ability to assess the accuracy, validity and integrity of the data.

Contributing	Journey	Advanced
<p>Ability to recognize basic patient vital signs; ability to report basic information about patient progress.</p> <p>Ability to enter basic data in data management system, as requested.</p>	<p>Ability to observe patient progress according to the treatment plan; ability to record a wide variety of data about patient progress.</p> <p>Ability to enter data (regarding patient and treatment plan) in data management system.</p> <p>Ability to maintain accurate and timely records of patient progress.</p>	<p>Ability to record a variety of data about patient progress and needs.</p> <p>Ability to train others in data entry; ability to monitor data integrity.</p> <p>Ability to maintain accurate and timely records of patient progress and other related information.</p>

Instruction

Ability to instruct and train employees, students, faculty and/or other clients by providing information, including appropriate procedures, practices and/or operation of equipment.

Contributing	Journey	Advanced
Ability to instruct others on special handling procedures, as needed.	Ability to instruct others in physical therapy techniques and treatments.	Ability to teach physical therapy treatments to other staff; ability to assist with in-service education and training; ability to provide demonstrations. Ability to instruct and supervise students in physical therapy techniques and methods.

V. MINIMUM TRAINING & EXPERIENCE

High school diploma or equivalency and one year of health care experience; or equivalent combination of training and experience. Some positions may require licensure as a Physical Therapy Assistant in the State of North Carolina.

Optional Level Guidelines:

- Contributing level - High school diploma or equivalency, one year of health care experience, and one year of on-the-job training in the administration of physical therapy treatments; or High school diploma or equivalency and two years of on-the-job training in physical therapy.
- Journey level - Completion of an approved two-year school for Physical Therapy Assistants and two years of experience in the area of specialty; or High school diploma or equivalency and three years of on-the-job training in the administration of physical therapy treatments including instruction in anatomy, physiology and skeletal biomechanics; or equivalent combination of training and experience.

Note: This is a generalized representation of positions in this class and is not intended to identify essential work functions per ADA. Examples of competencies are primarily those of the majority of positions in this class, but may not be applicable to all positions.