

Civil Division: Schools  
Jurisdictional Class: Competitive  
EEO Category: Technicians  
Reviewed: 09/30/15

## **PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This is a skilled sub-professional position involving responsibility for assisting a Physical Therapist with the treatment and prevention of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disabilities by the application of direct physical therapy procedures to patients. The work is performed under the supervision of a qualified Physical Therapist who evaluates the patient, develops the treatment plan and designates specific responsibility to the assistant. A Physical Therapist is readily available at all times for direction and assistance. Supervision may be exercised over one or more Physical Therapy Aides. The incumbent performs related work as required.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:** (Illustrative Only)

Applies heat, cold, electricity, light, water treatments, massage, therapeutic exercise, training in phases of ambulation and other activities of daily living according to the Physical Therapist's direction;

Observes, records, and reports patients' reactions to treatments and programs;

Prepares, sets up and maintains physical therapy treatment areas and equipment;

Provides for, and observes, safety precautions during all phases of treatment;

Confers periodically with the Physical Therapist regarding all facets of patient care and related activities;

Participates with other personnel in the formulation of the patients' total health care plans when appropriate;

Inventories, cleans, stores and otherwise maintains supplies and equipment;

Supervises Physical Therapy Aides, as directed by the Physical Therapist;

Performs record keeping functions related to maintenance and execution of the physical therapy program.

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Working knowledge of the principles, techniques and terminology of physical therapy; working knowledge of the operation and maintenance of apparatus and equipment used in physical therapy; working knowledge of human anatomy and physiology; working knowledge of the concepts and scope and limitations of physical therapy; sufficient physical strength to support and lift patients; ability to follow oral and written instructions; ability to plan and supervise the work of aides; skill in observing and recording patients' responses to treatments.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Certification and current registration by the New York State Education Department as a Physical Therapy Assistant.

Adopted: 10/20/83  
Reviewed: 11/21/84, 09/30/15  
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