

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CLASS SPECIFICATION

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

POSITION CODE: 32145
Effective: 3-16-88

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Initially, under direct supervision, provides direct physical therapy treatments to assigned clients while becoming acquainted with the facility, its operations, techniques and equipment, and subsequently, under general supervision, functions as a professional therapist in developing a thorough and meaningful physical therapy evaluation and treatment plan for an assigned client caseload, with particular reference to physical abilities, limitations and strengths; utilizes concepts, principles and practices of physical therapy to achieve the desired rehabilitation; assesses client's progress; administers a full range of therapy treatments; may direct Physical Therapy Aides and volunteers in carrying out individual client treatment plans; may assist a higher level therapist in maintaining program records and providing in-service training to Physical Therapy Aides, interns and volunteers; serves as a consultant, facility-wide and within the community, regarding physical therapy issues, treatments and techniques applied to clients.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. Functions as a member of a multi-disciplinary team in developing and implementing treatment plans for an assigned caseload to preserve and improve the clients' ability to function independently and to prevent, if possible, irreducible or progressive disabilities; cooperates with medical staff in determining functional capabilities and prognosis of clients.
2. Oversees and administers massages, range of motion exercises, ultraviolet ray, infrared, mercury quartz lamp, whirlpool, diathermy and hubbard tank treatments; administers electrical stimulation and therapy treatment for clients with arthritis; sets up specific exercise programs to correct faulty gait patterns, problems relating to posture, balance and coordination; aids clients in the use of parallel bars and trains residents in walker and transfer skills.
3. Observes and assesses client's progress or decline before and after treatment has been administered; maintains detailed case notes; compiles written progress reports which include the type of therapy/treatment administered to the clients and an evaluation of the results.
4. Performs initial and re-evaluative testing to determine the extent of physical and perceptual disability as the basis for treatment and to measure progress; evaluates the functional effects of a disease or disability; participates as a member of the multi-disciplinary treatment team, setting long and short-term goals for clients.
5. Checks equipment for proper functioning; requisitions materials, such as: wheelchairs, crutches, braces and other ambulatory aids; adapts equipment and self-help aids to the client's disability.
6. Makes written recommendations for physical therapy treatments, motor activities and equipment which will provide clients with specific treatment/training modalities to improve motor functions.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST (Continued)

7. May direct Physical Therapy Aides and volunteers in carrying out individual client treatment plans and in performing various physical therapy treatments, such as: electrotherapy, ultraviolet ray, infrared, whirlpool treatments and specific exercises to improve muscle strength and range of motion; assures the timeliness and adequacy of treatment administration in conformance with the client's written treatment plan.
8. May assist higher level therapists in maintaining program records and providing in-service training to less experienced therapists, interns and volunteers; may assume responsibility for the facility physical therapy program in the occasional absence of higher level Physical Therapists.
9. Attends conferences to receive guidance and instruction in new physical therapy treatment methods and/or procedures; may communicate the physical therapy program's design, methods and results to interested institutional and community sources.
10. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

Education and Experience

Requires knowledge, skill and mental development equivalent to the completion of four years of college with a bachelor's degree in physical therapy from a recognized school.

Requires possession of a Certificate of Registration as a Physical Therapist in Illinois.

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

Requires working knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of physical therapy.

Requires working knowledge of the overall objectives of the physical therapy program.

Requires working knowledge of materials and equipment utilized during physical therapy treatments, and their proper care and maintenance.

Requires working knowledge of the muscular, skeletal and nervous systems.

Requires working knowledge of the potential hazards involved in physical therapy treatments and the necessary precautionary measures.

Requires working knowledge of medical terminology.

Requires working knowledge of departmental regulations, policies and procedures.

Requires elementary knowledge of other disciplines functioning within the facility.

Requires ability to maintain records, and write clear and concise reports of treatments given, and the progress made.

Requires ability to review records of treatments and draw conclusions as to their effectiveness.

Requires ability to instruct others in the appropriate physical therapy techniques and practices.

Requires ability to maintain effective working relationships with clients, physicians, nursing personnel, aides, volunteers and other therapists.

Requires ability to communicate effectively.

Requires ability to apply therapeutic concepts, principles and practices necessary to achieve the desired rehabilitation to clients.

Requires ability to adapt, adjust, operate and make minor repairs to physical therapy equipment.