

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

DEFINITION

Under general direction, upon a physician's written orders, plans, organizes, and performs physical therapy services for residents; plans and provides in-service training on physical therapy techniques and principles for all levels of personnel; performs related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

In consultation with OBRA regulations and upon written physician orders, will administer standard diagnostic and prognostic examination of muscle, nerve, joint, ambulation, transfer and functional ability; plans treatment objectives and programs according to results of evaluation; provides for implementation of proper treatment program and periodic re-evaluation of program; explains treatment objectives and methods to residents and families; directs residents in exercises and functional training using various devices and equipment as required; evaluates resident response, progress and discusses with the attending physician on a monthly basis; records treatments given and maintains appropriate medical records; cares for and maintains equipment and treatment rooms; supervises therapy aides or certified nursing attendant staff in treatment and conditioning programs; instructs other nursing personnel in physical therapy procedures; develops and conducts in-service training programs; completes the PT section of the MDS form identifying rehabilitation potential and need for rehabilitation services; participates in the development of resident's overall treatment plan and other duties as assigned.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience: Graduation with a Bachelor's Degree from a school of physical therapy approved by the American Physical Therapy Association and the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association. Prefer one year of professional experience as a physical therapist working with physically/emotionally difficult/challenging residents.

Knowledges and Abilities: Knowledge of the theory, techniques and practices of physical therapy; physical ability to lift patients, move patients by wheelchair and otherwise perform frequent twists, bending, stooping and squatting; ability to assess the functional mobility status of residents; knowledge of the use, care and maintenance of physical therapy equipment; knowledge of medical terminology; ability to administer various types of physical therapy treatment; ability to lead and supervise the work of others; ability to train non-professional personnel and orient other allied health professionals; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with patients, physicians, families, co-workers and other treatment professionals; and ability to effectively communicate relevant clinical issues to unit nurses.

Licenses and other Requirements: As of date of hire, possess State of Wisconsin licensure as a physical therapist. CPR certification is desirable.