

**PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT**

**Nature of Work:** Under general supervision, performs paraprofessional work at the full-performance level, providing physical therapy services to patients in a state facility. Receives written orders from physicians or registered physical therapists (RPT) in the form of prescriptions. Conducts or delegates physical therapy exercises or treatments to be performed. Trains health care staff in the proper treatment of patients. May supervise a small staff of health service workers, either functionally or directly. Performs related work as required.

**Examples of Work**

Assists in administering medically prescribed physical therapy treatments of moderate scope and difficulty to patients. Maintains a record of each patient including a description of treatment given and an evaluation of patients' progress. Attends and participates in unit and ward meetings, in-services, physical therapy training, and demonstrations. Leads therapy aides and nursing assistants in the conduct of specific treatment exercises. Requisitions daily supplies and makes sure all equipment is in working order. May schedule and organize the daily activities of a small unit in the absence of the physical therapist or medical supervisor. Makes recommendations to physical therapist concerning treatment program changes, equipment needs and usage.

**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**

Knowledge of the exercises, modalities and training techniques used in physical therapy.  
Knowledge of the policies, procedures and limitations in unit operation.  
Ability to administer a wide range of physical therapy treatments using a variety of methods and apparatuses.  
Ability to follow detailed therapy plans and instructions; ability to adapt exercises to specific needs of patient and to recommend therapy changes which facilitate the patient's progress.  
Ability to plan, organize, instruct and lead the work of others.  
Ability to record accurate treatment notes and patient progress through oral and written communication.  
Ability to work effectively with patients of various ages, mental competence and physical disabilities and get along well with family members, visitors and staff.

9626

**PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (CONT'D)**

**Minimum Qualifications**

**Training:** Applicants must possess a license or temporary permit issued by the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy to practice as a Physical Therapy Assistant.

Established: 7/16/92  
Effective: 8/16/92