

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Physical therapy assistants provide services under the supervision and direction of a licensed physical therapist for special education students. These services provide essential support to individual education programs as determined by the IEP team. PTAs implement selected components of interventions/treatment, obtain data related to the interventions provided, and make modifications in selected interventions either to progress the student as directed by the physical therapist or to ensure student safety and comfort.

ESSENTIAL TASKS

(These are intended only as illustrations of the various types of work performed. The omission of specific duties does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position.)

- Collaborate to develop individual goals and objectives for students based upon previous and current progress, areas of deficits and needs to be incorporated into the student's IEP.
- Under the supervision of a physical therapist, implement appropriate physical therapy services to support the goals and objectives of a student's IEP.
- Identify environmental needs/barriers and make recommendations for accommodations/physical modifications under the supervision of a physical therapist.
- Independently conducts both individual and group physical therapy treatments as assigned by the physical therapist
- Monitors student's response to intervention and consults with the physical therapist if modification is indicated.
- Assists in the selection of physical therapy techniques/media and in the sequence of activities, adapts techniques/media as indicated by student performance and following consultation with the physical therapist.
- Records billable treatment times and provides documentation for students receiving MEDICAID according to school system guidelines.
- Participate in staff development activities for personnel.
- Attend staff meetings and other school meetings when appropriate.
- Maintain and clean supplies, equipment and other therapy areas.
- Maintain required documentation and data collection of therapy sessions.
- Follow the division's policies and procedures as related to guidelines and instructional initiatives.
- Consistently demonstrates sound judgment in the implementation, planning, and follow-up of student therapy programs.
- Perform other relevant duties and responsibilities as assigned by the supervisor.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of physical therapy theory and practices related to the provision of school based interventions for students with special needs; knowledge of anatomy, neuroanatomy, kinesiology, and various medical diagnoses and normal and abnormal child development; IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act); IEP (Individual Educational Program) guidelines and procedures and the school division rules, regulations, and procedures for delivering services. Ability to maintain professional standards of behavior and conduct; ability to collaborate and plan effectively with supervising Therapist; ability to have effective working relationships with all members of the team including Therapists, administration, teachers, staff, students, and parents; ability to motivate and encourage students to participate in therapeutic programs and interventions; ability to take initiative and demonstrate effective planning, problem solving and time management skills; ability to express ideas clearly, orally and in writing

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Associate’s degree from an accredited physical therapy assistant program at a technical or community college, college, or university required. Pediatric or school-based experience preferred.

A comparable amount of training and experience may be substituted for the minimum qualifications.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Must have the use of sensory skills in order to effectively communicate and interact with others through the use of the telephone and personal contact as normally defined by the ability to see, read, talk, hear, handle or feel objects and controls. Standing, walking, sitting, stooping, kneeling, bending, and crouching are regularly required of the position. The employee is required to have visual and hearing acuity sufficient enough to assess patient safety and ability. Capable of exerting 20-50 pounds of force occasionally (less than 1/3 of the time) and/or 10-20 pounds of force frequently (1/2 of the time) and/or up to 10 pounds of force constantly (2/3 or more of the time) to move objects, equipment and/or perform medium to maximum transfer assists with students.

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential tasks.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Current Licensure to practice physical therapy in the State of Virginia.
- Must complete the following required training:
 - Virginia School Security Officer Certification (recertification every two years required)
 - MANDT System Crisis De-Escalation Training
 - Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training
 - Basic First Aid Training

FLSA status: Non-exempt	Description: Rev. 1/13
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