# Job Description



## **Physical Therapist**

#### **Position Summary:**

Under the supervision of the Director of Patient Care Services, Physical Therapists (PTs) provide direct patient care to individuals with physical disabilities and/or functional limitations in a home setting. PTs plan therapy programs, direct and assist patients in exercises and use of wheelchairs and other devices, and evaluate patient progress. In addition they educate patients, families and caregivers in appropriate physical therapy methods.

#### Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Planning, preparing and carrying out individually designed programs of physical treatment to maintain, improve or restore physical functioning, alleviate pain and prevent physical dysfunction in patients.
- Performing and documenting an initial exam, evaluating the patient to identify problems and determine a treatment diagnosis prior to intervention.
- Evaluating effects of treatment at various stages and adjusting treatments to achieve maximum benefit.
- Administering manual exercises, soft tissue mobility and/or traction to help relieve pain, increase the patient's strength, and decrease or prevent deformity.
- Provide appropriate functional mobility training (i.e. bed mobility, transfers, ambulation) for patient's particular diagnosis.
- Instructing the patient and/or family in treatment procedures.
- Conferring with the patient, medical practitioners and appropriate others to plan, implement, and assess the intervention program.
- Reviewing physician's referral and patient's medical records to help determine a treatment diagnosis and physical therapy treatment required.
- Recording prognosis, treatment, response, and progress in patient's chart.
- Obtaining patient's informed consent to proposed interventions.
- Discharging patients from physical therapy when goals or projected outcomes have been attained and providing for appropriate follow-up care or referrals.
- Testing and measuring patient's strength, motor development and function, sensory perception, functional capacity, and respiratory and circulatory efficiency and recording the data.
- Identifying and documenting goals, anticipated progress and plans for reevaluation.
- Providing information to the patient about the proposed intervention, its material risks and expected benefits and any reasonable alternatives.
- Performing therapeutic exercise, with and without equipment.
- Adapting conventional physical therapy techniques to meet the needs of patients unable to comprehend verbal commands or voluntarily carry out a regime of therapeutic exercise.
- Evaluating, fitting and adjusting prosthetic and orthotic devices and recommending modification to the physician or orthotist.

- Referring clients to community resources and services.
- Assisting with other duties as assigned.

#### The qualifications for this position are as follows:

- Bachelor's degree, at least 6 months of experience that is directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified.
- Ability to effectively communicate medical information, test results, diagnoses and/or proposed treatment in a manner easily understood by the client.
- Knowledge of anatomy, physiology and /or kinesiology.
- Ability to gather and analyze statistical data and generate reports.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Knowledge of the administration, indications and contra-indications of various physical agents and physical therapy techniques.
- Ability to safely lift and physical manipulate patients. Knowledge of clinical operations and procedures.
- Ability to instruct physical therapy patients in the use of equipment.
- Ability to interpret, adapt and apply guidelines and procedures.
- Ability to monitor and/or maintain quality control standards. Skill in performing a range of manual physical therapy techniques for patients.
- Ability to plan, develop and implement physical therapy programs.
- Ability to perform diagnostic tests and evaluations for physical therapy patients.
- Must possess a valid driver's license and auto insurance with a satisfactory driving record for the past three (3) years.
- CPR/First Aid (BCLS) certification and ability to meet health requirements as per company policy required.
- Must be willing to submit to a background check.
- Proficient in Windows/Microsoft Office.

#### The working conditions for this position are as follows:

- **Physical Demands**: While performing the duties of this position, the employee is regularly required to use hands to perform intricate, dexterous procedures. The employee is required to talk and hear. The employee is required to stand, walk, sit, reach with the hands and arms, climb or balance, stoop, kneel, crouch, or crawl; and taste or smell. The employee must frequently lift and / or move / shift up to 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required include: close, distance, color and depth perception. The physical demands described here are representative of those essential functions.
- <u>Work Environment</u>: While performing the duties of this job, the employee is exposed to outside weather conditions and various home environments that may be unpredictable. Work is primarily conducted in various home environments. The noise level is usually moderate.

### Potential Occupational Exposure:

Duties may have the potential for exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material and are determined to have a reasonably anticipated risk of exposure to blood borne pathogens. The procedures and precautions for this exposure is acknowledged

and detailed in the company's Exposure Control Plan. In addition, the work environment involves some exposures to hazards or physical risks, which require following basic safety precautions.

Reports to: Director of Patient Care Services Department: Therapies Status: Part-time, days, evenings and weekends Last Revision Date: 1/26/2010