

Job Description: PHYSICAL THERAPIST

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Job Summary:

The Physical Therapist evaluates and provides physical therapy treatments and modalities to clients/patients in their place of residence, in accordance with Physician's orders, the Physical Therapist Practice Act, the state regulations, and the ACHC accreditation standards.

Qualifications:

Must be a graduate from an accredited Physical Therapy program and licensed by the state of Florida.

Has had a minimum of one year working experience as a Physical Therapist.

Preferred Medicare home health experience.

Reports to: Director of Client/Patient Services/Supervisory Nurse

Job Duties and Responsibilities: (Include, but are not limited to the following):

1. Assists the physician in evaluating the patient's level of function. Assess patient's home environment for safety hazards and architectural barriers, identifies equipment needs.
2. Identifies functional problems and establishes goals and a plan of care designed to improve the patient's functional status (revising as necessary).
3. Performs patient tests, measurements, and evaluations, such as range of motion and manual muscle tests, gait and functional analysis, and body parts measurement, and records and evaluates findings to aid in establishing or revising specifics of treatment programs.
4. Performs and completes start-of-care, and on-going assessments and associated paperwork in accordance to agency policy.
5. Instructs patient and family members, as well as other health team members, during certain phases of physical therapy in which they may work with the patient.
6. Periodically re-evaluates and upgrades the patient's program to maximize functional improvement.
7. Administers the exercise program utilizing specialized therapeutic exercise techniques and equipment.
8. Plans and administers prescribed physical therapy treatment programs for patients to restore function, relieve pain and prevent disability following disease, injury, or loss of body part.

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9. Recommends prosthetic/orthotic devices for patients or evaluates their devices and makes minor adjustments or recommends modifications by the prosthetist/orthotist.
10. Confers with the family, referring physician, and other agency professional staff to obtain information to promote coordinated, efficient, and quality patient care.
11. Performs and submits required documentation of patient's evaluations, plan of care, clinical notes, and progress reports, summaries along with changes in orders. All patient visit notes must be turned in the next scheduled work day, not to exceed forty-eight (48) hours.
12. Maintains necessary statistical and billing data.
13. Orients, instructs, and supervises the Homecare Agency aide every two weeks in carrying out specific physical therapy modalities.
14. Keeps abreast of changes in physical therapy theories and practices, contributes to the ongoing development of programs and professionals within the service of sharing expertise, contributing resources and giving in-services.
15. Keeps his/her immediate supervisor informed of problem areas and makes suggestions for improvement.
16. Attends and contributes to in-services, clinical records reviews, meetings required to ensure coordinated and comprehensive plans of care for the patients of the agency.
17. Performs Physical Therapy Assistant on-site supervision as required by law. The supervisory visits may be made either when the Physical Therapy Assistant is present so that the supervisor may observe and assist, or when the Physical Therapy Assistant is treating patients. The supervisory visit will include an on-site functional assessment, an on-site review of activities with appropriate revision of treatment plan, and an assessment of the utilization of outside resources.
18. The Physical Therapist will be accessible by phone to the Physical Therapy Assistant at all times while the Physical Therapy Assistant is treating patients.
19. Complies with the Agency Policies and Procedures.
20. Complies with the Agency's Compliance Plan.
21. Complies with the Agency's Infection Control Policies.
22. Complies with the Agency's HIPAA Policies.
23. Complies with ACHC accreditation standards.

Working Environment:

Field experience may expose employee to temperature extremes, physical injury by patient, family, animal or other in the community, unsafe environment or exposure to infectious diseases and offensive odors.

- a. Equipment and Supplies: Prudent and efficient use of routine office supplies and equipment. Prudent and efficient use of routine medical supplies, sphygmomanometer and stethoscope, and equipment. All the preceding items should be protected from theft and weather at all times.

- b. Knowledge and Competency: Must demonstrate basic knowledge of all procedures included in the Physical Therapy description. Must have the ability to follow instructions from the physician, Nursing Supervisor and other professional staff. Ability to communicate effectively with managers, patients, families and co-workers. Must have effective means of transportation, which will enable employee to make visits to patients' homes if needed. Must be able to assess safety of home situations for self, patients, and other staff members, including physical and psychological dangers. Must have the ability to effectively cope with patients, families and all others with varying backgrounds, socioeconomic conditions, and value judgments. Skills include the ability to use cognizant approach to problem solving in delivering patient care with considerations being given to the patient's past experience, finances and other resources. Skills are needed to assess both physical and psychological needs of patients and institute the appropriate nursing intervention. Must possess ingenuity to handle medical and situational emergencies.

Maintains confidentiality of information relating to patient. Will discuss only those aspects necessary to care and treatment of patient with those directly involved in the patient's care.

- c. Physical Demands: Must be able to complete all physical demands of the job, which may include, but not be limited to: the ability to lift and transfer patients, carry supplies, and read normal typewritten print. Have corrected vision and hearing within normal range and have manual dexterity with normal range of motion of all extremities. May be requested to work weekends, holidays, and occasional overtime. Must be able to work alone without usual support systems immediately available in acute care settings. Must have the ability to deal with abrupt schedule changes and to maintain objectivity in coping with the stress of working with acute, chronic and terminally ill patients.

- d. Image Responsibility: Complies with the Agency dress code, projects a professional attitude toward self, patients, and other staff members, and follows department public relation policies regarding outside speaking and professional affiliations, clearing all such requests through the Agency.