

Job Description: SPEECH THERAPIST

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Job Summary:

The Speech Therapist evaluates and treats clients/patients with speech diagnoses and dysfunctions in their place of residence, in accordance with the Speech Therapist Practice Act, physician's orders, the state regulations and the ACHC accreditation standards.

Qualifications:

A Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from a Department of Speech Pathology at an accredited college approved by the American Board of Examiners in Speech Pathology and Audiology of the American Speech and Hearing Association.

Licensed in the State of Florida by the State Board of Healing Arts to practice as a Speech Pathologist.

Preferred home care experience.

Documentation of clinical competence in speech pathology and/or audiology.

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. Assesses home environment and identifies equipment needs related to speech/language function.
2. Identifies functional speech deficits and establishes goals and plan of care to improve patient's function, revising as necessary.
3. Performs and complete start of care and on-going assessments and associated paperwork in accordance to agency policy.
4. Instructs patient and family members, as well as other health team members, in methods of assisting the patient in improving communication skills.
5. Recommends communication devices/aids as indicated.
6. Periodically re-evaluates and upgrades the patient's program to maximize functional improvement. Records and reports to the patient's physician the patient's progress in treatment and any changes in the patient's condition and plan of care.
7. Confers with the family, referring physician, and other agency professional staff to obtain information to promote coordinated, efficient, and quality patient care.
8. 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.

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9. Maintains necessary statistical and billing data.
10. Keeps abreast of changes in speech pathology practice and theory, contributes to the field through research, presentations, and in-services.
11. Keeps his/her immediate supervisor informed of problem areas and makes suggestions for improvement.
12. 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.
13. Complies with the Agency's Policies and Procedures.
14. Complies with the Agency's Compliance Plan.
15. Complies with the Agency's Infection Control Policies.
16. Complies with the Agency's HIPAA Policies.
17. 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 Speech Therapy job description. Must have the ability to follow instructions from the physician, DON/Agency 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.

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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. Work Ethic: 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.