

## PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a skilled position involving responsibility for assisting a Physical Therapist with the treatment and prevention of neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disabilities by the application of direct physical therapy procedures to residents. The work is performed under the supervision of a qualified Physical Therapist who evaluates the resident, develops the treatment plan and designates specific responsibility to the Assistant. A Physical Therapist is readily available at all times for direction and assistance. Supervision may be exercised over one or more Physical Therapy Aides. A Physical Therapy Assistant does related work as required.

### TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Applies heat, cold, electricity, light, water treatments, massage, therapeutic exercise, training in phases of ambulation and other activities of daily living according to the Physical Therapist's direction;
- Observes, records, and reports residents' reactions to treatments and programs;
- Prepares, sets up and maintains physical therapy treatment areas and equipment;
- Provides for and observes safety precautions during all phases of treatment;
- Confers periodically with the Physical Therapist regarding all facets of resident care and related activities;
- Participates with other personnel in the formulation of the residents' total health care plans when appropriate;
- Inventories, cleans, stores and otherwise maintains supplies and equipment;
- Supervises Physical Therapy Aides as directed by the Physical Therapist;
- Performs record keeping functions related to maintenance and execution of the physical therapy program.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Working knowledge of the principles, techniques and terminology of physical therapy; working knowledge of the operation and maintenance of apparatus and equipment used in physical therapy; working knowledge of human anatomy and physiology; working knowledge of the concepts and scope and limitations of physical therapy; sufficient physical strength to support and lift adult residents; ability to follow oral and written instructions; ability to plan and supervise the work of aides; skill in observing and recording residents' responses to treatments; physical condition sufficient to perform the essential functions of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Possession of current certification by the New York State Department of Education to practice physical therapy as a Physical Therapy Assistant.

*SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT:* In agencies where required, possess and maintain an appropriate class New York State Motor Vehicle Operator's license.

*SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS / BOCES:*

Per regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district or BOCES as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.

## CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE

Revised: 3/21/96; 12/11/2017

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