

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

DEFINITION

Under direction, to plan, develop, and perform physical therapy for physically disabled children up to age 21; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is a specialized classification for the development and performance of physical therapy for children covered by California Crippled Children Services benefits.

REPORTS TO

Health Officer.

CLASSIFICATIONS SUPERVISED

None

EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT AND ESSENTIAL DUTIES *(The following is used as a partial description and is not restrictive as to duties required.)*

Plans and carries out a full range of physical therapy involving specialized skills for neuro-muscularly, orthopedically, and physically disabled children; interviews patients and parents; evaluates patient's physical condition; reviews clinical records, medical prescriptions, and/or physician referral to develop treatment plans; observes patient reactions and notes changes; adopts and applies treatment procedures for severely disabled children; instructs parents in the proper use of wheelchairs, crutches, canes, braces, and prosthetic devices and appliances; modifies treatment plans in response to significant changes in patient's condition; devises or adapts equipment as required; maintains treatment records; consults with others involved with patient treatment to maintain consistency; attends clinics, conferences, and meetings; may coordinate and employ several treatment approaches to accomplish treatment objectives; may perform special evaluations and tests; instructs others in patient positioning for therapy treatment; may work at different sites in the County.

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TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for periods of time; frequently stand and walk; special manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination for application of physical therapy; use proper positioning and movement techniques for disabled persons; lift and move object weighing up to 50 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is usually performed in a clinic environment; continuous contact with staff and the public.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Principles and practices of physical therapy, especially for disabled children.
Kinesiology and modalities.
Neuro-muscular function and dysfunction.
Physiology and skeletal anatomy.
Construction and use of orthopedic appliances and equipment.
Psychological problems of persons with disabilities.

Ability to:

Plan therapy treatments and make modifications as a person progresses.
Evaluate the condition and progress of patients with regard to physical therapy needs.
Develop therapeutic techniques and devices.
Evaluate the effectiveness of physical therapy techniques.
Coordinate different treatment approaches to accomplish objectives.
Instruct others in body positioning for therapy treatments.
Coordinate treatment plans with other staff.
Prepare and maintain accurate medical records.
Deal tactfully and courteously with patients and their families.
Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (continued)

Training and Experience:

Any combination of training and experience which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

Two (2) years of responsible work experience as a professional physical therapist which included pediatric work experience.

Special Requirement:

Possession of valid registration as a Physical Therapist issued by the State of California.

Possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate valid California Driver's License.

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