



Physical Therapist I

Class Code: 7980

Date Established: 1931

Date Revised: 09-13-05

OVERVIEW:

Under general supervision and upon physician referral, the Physical Therapist I assesses patient needs, develops treatment goals, and plans and implements the appropriate treatment program utilizing a variety of professional physical therapy procedures.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Usually a Student Health Center will have only one position of Physical Therapist. The incumbents in both Physical Therapist I and II classifications are expected to work independently in accordance with medical orders and to assign and lead the work of student assistants in routine departmental aid duties. A solo physical therapist has primary responsibility for patient evaluation, devising a therapy program and evaluating results.

The Physical Therapist I is distinguished from the Physical Therapist II by the limited responsibility for operation of a physical therapy department and by the type, scope and level of treatments given. Physical Therapist II always will be responsible for being in charge of the physical therapy department, either supervising part-time and/or full-time physical therapists or coordinating with contract therapists, and also will be responsible for giving or developing a plan for a wide variety of diverse and complex physical therapy treatments.

TYPICAL ACTIVITIES:

Incumbents in this classification perform initial evaluation and assessment of patient problems; administer standard diagnostic and prognostic examination of muscle, nerve, joint and functional ability; provide for implementation of proper therapy treatment program and periodic re-evaluation of program; conduct actual treatment programs using various modalities; administer active, passive and resistive therapeutic exercises, local or general massage, muscle training and re-education, corrective exercises and neuromuscular coordination; design and construct, or direct construction of, specialized testing and treatment equipment; instruct patients in walking, standing, balance, use of crutches or cane, and in the care of braces and artificial limbs; instruct patients regarding exercises which are to be continued at home and interpret to them the significance of physical therapy services; evaluate patient's response and progress and discuss with the appropriate physician; evaluate and test procedures; work with athletic trainers for sport teams; record treatments given and maintain appropriate records; care for and maintain equipment and treatment rooms; and keep inventory and requisition supplies used for therapy.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge and Abilities:

Thorough knowledge of the principles and methods of physical therapy including operation of therapeutic machines, such as ultraviolet, ultra sound, infrared, diathermy, mechanical traction and electrical stimulation; physical effects resulting from various types of physical therapy treatments; skeletal anatomy and the basic pathology involved in diseases or injuries resulting in physical and mental handicaps. General knowledge of the construction and use of therapeutic appliances and equipment suitable for home construction; and injuries encountered in athletic programs.

Ability to administer various types of physical therapy; teach the disabled the fundamentals of self-care and other suitable activities; interpret physical therapy treatments and teach others the treatments which must be continued at home; prepare reports and keep records and case histories; analyze situations accurately and take prompt emergency action; and communicate well with others.

Special Qualifications:

Possession of a valid certificate as a Registered Physical Therapist issued by the Board of Medical Examiners, State of California or is eligible for such a license by reciprocity with a license from another state.