

# Classification and Qualification STANDARDS

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## Physical Therapy Series

Classification Title	Class Code	Date Established	Date Revised
Physical Therapist I	7980	09-16-1961	02-01-2010
Physical Therapist II	7981	06-30-1980	02-01-2010

### OVERVIEW:

The Physical Therapy Series is comprised of two classifications providing professional physical therapy services with increasing levels of operational and administrative responsibilities. Upon referral from a physician or similar practitioner, incumbents assess patient needs, develop treatment goals and plans, and implement the appropriate treatment program using the appropriate physical therapy techniques, methods, and procedures.

Incumbents in both Physical Therapist I and II classifications are expected to work independently in accordance with medical orders and have primary responsibility for patient evaluation, devising a therapy program and evaluating results. Both classifications require the therapist to make independent decisions regarding the selection of techniques, methods and procedures to obtain optimal results from treatments administered and to be alert to patient crises requiring notification of a physician. The primary distinction between the Physical Therapist I and Physical Therapist II is the scope of administrative and operational responsibilities.

**Physical Therapist I** – Incumbents work independently in performing the full range of physical therapy services described above. In addition, they may provide lead work direction to support staff in the physical therapy department, but typically have limited operational and administrative responsibilities compared to the Physical Therapist II.

**Physical Therapist II** – In addition to performing the full range of professional physical therapy services of the Physical Therapist I, incumbents typically have broader and higher-level administrative and operational responsibility for the physical therapy department. Administrative and operational responsibilities include developing and coordinating diverse and complex physical therapy programs; providing the full range of lead work direction to other professionals and support staff; developing and monitoring the department budget; and monitoring medical records and progress of patients using the physical therapy services. Also may be responsible for developing treatment plans for more complex physical therapy cases.

Physical Therapists are distinguished from Athletic Trainers in that incumbents do not focus their services solely on student athletes and typically are not involved in regularly attending team practices and events.

### PHYSICAL THERAPIST I

Under general supervision and upon referral from a physician or similar practitioner, the Physical Therapist I independently assesses patient needs, develops treatment goals and plans, and implements the appropriate treatment program utilizing a variety of professional physical therapy techniques, methods, and procedures. Examples of typical work activities are meant to illustrate the general range of work functions performed by a Physical Therapist I; they are not meant to be all-inclusive or restrictive. Work assignments may involve related activities.

- ◆ Perform initial evaluation and assessment of patient problems. Administer standard diagnostic and prognostic examination of muscle, nerve, joint, and functional ability.
- ◆ Develop a treatment plan including treatment objectives and programs based on the assessment results.

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- ◆ Conduct physical therapy treatment utilizing the full range of accepted physical therapy techniques and practice standards.
  - ◆ Design and construct, or direct construction of, specialized testing and treatment equipment.
  - ◆ Instruct patients regarding exercises which are to be continued at home and interpret to them the significance of physical therapy services. Instruct patients in walking, standing, balance, use of crutches or cane, and in caring of braces and artificial limbs.
  - ◆ Provide for implementation of proper therapy treatment program and periodic re-evaluation of program. Evaluate patient's response and progress and discuss with the appropriate physician.
  - ◆ Maintain appropriate medical records of treatment plans, treatments given, and progress notes.
  - ◆ Care for and maintain equipment and treatment rooms and keep inventory and requisition supplies used for therapy.
  - ◆ May work with Athletic Trainers in providing support to student athletes.
  - ◆ Assist in department coordination and daily operations, including monitoring the budget and providing work direction to support staff.

## **TYPICAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

### ***Knowledge:***

Thorough knowledge of the theories, principles and methods of physical therapy; 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 disorders; operation of various therapeutic devices and machines; and state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of physical therapy and patient confidentiality. General knowledge of the construction and use of therapeutic appliances and equipment suitable for home use and injuries encountered in athletic programs.

### ***Abilities:***

Ability to effectively administer various types of physical therapy; teach patients the fundamentals of self-care, and other suitable activities; interpret physical therapy treatments and teach others the treatments which must be continued at home; use applicable automated systems to maintain records and prepare reports and case histories; analyze situations accurately and promptly seek emergency support when needed; maintain patient confidentiality as required under applicable state and federal laws and regulations; maintain effective working relationships with practitioners and other health center support staff; and be sensitive to and communicate effectively with diverse patients.

### ***Education and Experience:***

Incumbents must possess the requisite education to obtain a Physical Therapist license in the State of California. This requires being a graduate of a professional physical therapy degree program of an accredited postsecondary institution or other institutions or programs approved by the Physical Therapy Board of California.

### ***Licensing/Certification Requirements:***

Incumbents must possess and maintain a valid license as a Registered Physical Therapist issued by the Physical Therapy Board of California.

## **PHYSICAL THERAPIST II**

In addition to providing the full range of physical therapy services described for the Physical Therapist I, the Physical Therapist II is distinguished by broader and higher-level operational and administrative responsibility for the physical therapy department. Also may be responsible for developing treatment plans for more complex physical therapy cases. The following examples of typical work activities are meant to illustrate the general range of work functions performed by a Physical Therapist II; they are not meant to be all-inclusive or restrictive. Work assignments may involve related activities.

- ◆ Oversee administration functions of the physical therapy including developing and monitoring the department budget, and maintaining and monitoring medical records and progress of patients using the physical therapy services.

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- ◆ Coordinate the daily operations of the physical therapy department, including developing and coordinating diverse and complex physical therapy programs to meet Student Health Center needs, and providing lead work direction to other physical therapy professionals and/or support staff including orienting, training, and providing input to employee performance evaluations.
  - ◆ Represent the department on management planning issues at Student Health Center meetings. The therapist is responsible for recommending revisions of procedures for departmental scheduling, filing, and equipment use, in order to increase effectiveness and productivity.
  - ◆ Perform a wide variety of therapy treatments where maximum skill is required for assessment and evaluation of diverse therapy needs. Treat more complex cases and conduct actual treatment programs using various modalities.
  - ◆ May be assigned some responsibility for orthopedic clinic activities related to patient appointments, follow-up, and scheduling.

### **TYPICAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

#### ***Knowledge:***

In addition to the knowledge requirements of the Physical Therapist I, the Physical Therapist II must possess a more in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of the theories, principles, and methods of physical therapy; physical effects resulting from various types of physical therapy treatments, and skeletal anatomy and the pathology involved in diseases or injuries resulting in physical and mental disorders. Working knowledge of Student Health Center administrative processes and procedures related to human resources and budgets.

#### ***Abilities:***

In addition to the abilities outlined for the Physical Therapist I, the Physical Therapist II must possess the ability to coordinate and administer a physical therapy program within the student health center; develop a therapy treatment program and administer various types of physical therapy treatments; interpret physical therapy treatments and teach others the treatments which must be continued at home; provide lead work direction to other professionals and support staff; plan and organize work within the department; plan and integrate departmental activities with other Health Center activities; compile or review and evaluate reports and case histories; analyze situations accurately and promptly seek emergency support when needed; communicate well with others; recognize and correct poor or unproductive methods of instruction; develop new or modify the type of treatment to meet the needs of patients; evaluate and test procedures; and develop manuals and procedural instructions for the therapy department.

#### ***Education and Experience:***

The same education requirements as the Physical Therapist I plus progressively responsible professional physical therapy experience, usually in the range of three to four years, including at least one year in a lead capacity with some responsibility for program administration, as well as additional experience related to orthopedics, sports medicine and rehabilitation.

#### ***Licensing/Certification Requirements:***

Requirements are the same as for the Physical Therapist I.