

**BOARD OF REGENTS
STATE OF IOWA
REGENT MERIT SYSTEM**

Class Title: Physical Therapy Assistant

Class Code: 7251

Pay Grade: 409

GENERAL CLASS DESCRIPTION:

Under direct supervision performs physical therapy treatments as prescribed and assigned by a physical therapist.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Acts as an assistant to the physical therapist when the physical therapist is performing tests, evaluations and complex treatment procedures.
2. Carries out positioning and exercises.
3. Cares for braces, prostheses, bandages and other active assistive devices.
4. Observes and reports the patient's response to the physical therapist.
5. Trains patients in exercises, ambulation and activities of daily living.
6. Independently carries out treatment plans established by a supervising physical therapist.
7. Maintains surveillance of environmental conditions within the physical therapy service.
8. Participates in clerical and reception activities.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

1. Knowledge of physical therapy treatments such as heat and cold, modalities, massage, therapeutic exercise, gait training, electrical stimulation, biofeedback, wound care.
2. Knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathology.

The tasks listed under the heading of Characteristic Duties and Responsibilities are examples of the variety and general nature of duties performed by employees in positions allocated in the class. The list is descriptive only and should be used for no other purpose. It is not intended that any position include every duty listed, nor is it intended that related duties cannot be required.

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3. Skill in the administration of physical therapy treatments.
4. Ability to monitor and document patient responses to treatments.
5. Ability to communicate effectively with supervisors, staff members, physicians, nurses, other healthcare professionals and students.
6. Ability to communicate effectively with patients and families.

CLASS SPECIFICATIONS:

1. Completion of two-year program for physical therapist assistants that leads to an associate degree that has been approved by the American Physical Therapy Association.
2. Licensure in accord with the Iowa Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners is required.

REVISION EFFECTIVE April 15, 2004

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