

Physical Therapy Aide Competencies

Required Competencies

Patient Communication

1. Encourage patients and attend to their physical needs to facilitate the attainment of therapeutic goals.
2. Explain medical instructions to patients or family members
3. Train patients to use orthopedic braces, prostheses, or supportive devices.
4. Appropriately communicate with patients, including those who are cognitively impaired or mentally ill.

Record Keeping

1. Accurately maintain medical records
 - a. observe patients' attendance, progress, attitudes, and accomplishments
 - b. record and maintain information in client records
 - c. record vital statistics or other health information
2. Monitor patient progress or responses to treatments by observing patients during treatment and reporting progress to physical therapist.

Equipment and Supply Management

1. Prepare patient treatment areas for use, including preparing and maintaining work area, materials, equipment and educational supplies.
2. Maintain equipment or furniture to keep it in good working condition, including performing the assembly or disassembly of equipment or accessories.
3. Stock treatment or patient care supplies.
4. Inventory treatment supplies or equipment.

Patient Care

1. Measure patient's range-of-joint motion, body parts, or vital signs to determine effects of treatments or for patient evaluations.
2. Instruct, assist and safeguard patients in therapeutic activities.
3. Assist patients to dress, undress, or put on and remove supportive devices, such as braces, splints, or slings.
4. Engage patients in exercises or activities.
5. Administer active or passive manual therapeutic exercises, therapeutic massage, or heat, light, sound, water, or electrical modality treatments, such as ultrasound.
6. Administer traction to relieve neck or back pain, using intermittent or static traction equipment.
7. Hold patients to ensure proper positioning or safety, securing patients into or onto therapy equipment.
8. Fit patients for orthopedic braces, prostheses, or supportive devices, adjusting fit as needed.
9. Confer with physical therapy staff or others to discuss and evaluate patient information for planning, modifying, or coordinating treatment.

Administration

1. Perform clerical, and secretarial duties, such as answering phones, ordering supplies, filling out paperwork, and scheduling appointments.
2. Schedule patient procedures or appointments

Infection Control and Safety

1. Manage control system activities for infection control and equipment security purposes.
2. Clean and disinfect equipment and/or replace supplies after treatment.
3. Ensure work areas and procedures are compliant with safety requirements