

**MENDOCINO COUNTY GOVERNMENT
CLASS SPECIFICATION**

CLASS TITLE:	PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT
DEPARTMENT:	PUBLIC HEALTH
REPORTS TO:	SUPERVISING PHYSICAL THERAPIST

CLASS CODE:
FLSA STATUS: NE
DATE:

JOB SUMMARY:

Under general supervision, implements physical therapy services within the parameters of a treatment plan as specified by a Physical Therapist and assists with modification of treatment plans as needed.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Physical Therapist Assistants are certified practitioners who assist Physical Therapists in administering therapy and treatment to patients. This class is distinguished from the class of Physical Therapist in that, while Physical Therapist Assistants may independently observe, set up, and carry out a therapeutic program for individuals and groups, they do not have the responsibility for initial evaluation, planning a treatment program, initiating discharge evaluation procedures, or have total responsibility for the administration of the patients treatment program.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

Under supervision, performs the following:

- Directs and assists patients in the performance of range of motion exercise such as passive, active and resistive either manually or by the use of resistive devices.
- Instructs and supervises patients in use of assistive devices (canes, mats, pulleys, braces, walkers, crutches) for gait training and other self-help activities as indicated by the Physical Therapist.
- Applies therapeutic modalities such as hydrotherapy, heat therapy, light therapy and electrotherapy as indicated by the Physical Therapist.
- Assesses patients' progress and suggests modifications to treatment plans to the Physical Therapist.

Maintains daily progress reports and prepares weekly reports on patients treatment; observes patients for contraindications to treatment.

Participates in staff conferences and in-service training; assists in training physical therapy student interns.

Assembles and disassembles equipment and accessories; maintains working area and equipment in a clean and orderly condition.

Instructs patients and their families with home exercise and care programs as necessary

Prepares and maintains accurate patient records.

May serve as backup for other positions within the department.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT USED:

Should have familiarity with all equipment normally found in a therapy department including: parallel bars, stairs, ramps, swings, crutches, canes, orthotics wheelchairs and tools to repair equipment.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

Must possess current valid certificate as a Physical Therapist Assistant to practice in the State of California or proof of acceptance to sit for the California State examination by the Physical Therapy Examining Committee, Board of Medical Quality Assurance, Department of Consumer Affairs, as prescribed in Title 16, Article 4, Section 1398.40, of the California Administrative Code.

Applicants who do not possess the certificate but who have been accepted for the next State examination may participate in the examination process but will be placed under a waiver of appointment pending receipt of the certificate.

Valid California class C driver's license.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge of:

Basic principles of physical dysfunction, anatomy, physiology, and physical therapy.

Basic Physical Therapy treatment modalities and procedures.

Public health safety practices and procedures.

Equipment and assistive devices used in a program of functional physical therapy.

Ability to:

Work well with patients to assist them in making physical improvements.

Plan and organize.

Communicate orally and in written form.

Assemble, disassemble and adjust therapy equipment.

Keep accurate records, and prepare reports.

Comply with public health safety practices and procedures.

Employ appropriate and effective patient transfer techniques.

To prepare accurate, concise case records and to write progress reports.

Work effectively with patients and co-workers.

Apply therapeutic exercises on an individual basis.

Work and communicate effectively and clearly with impaired patient who may not comprehend or be receptive to verbal instructions.

Lift and support patients.

Mental and Physical Abilities:

Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operation and maintenance instructions, procedure manuals, and so forth.

Ability to understand and carry out written and oral instructions, giving close attention to detail and accuracy.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others.

Ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers, common fractions and decimals.

Ability to deal with problems involving several variables in standardized situations.

Physical Requirements:

Regularly required to sit.

Regularly required to use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects and reach with hands and arms.

Regularly required to speak and hear.

Regularly required to lift and/or move patients and equipment.

Regularly required to ascend and descend stairs, ramps and the like using feet and legs or hands and arms and maintain body equilibrium to prevent falling when walking, standing, crouching, or running on narrow, slippery or erratically moving surfaces.

Regularly required to use color, sound, texture, odor and shape perception and discrimination.

Occasionally required to lift and/or move clients and/or equipment up to, and occasionally more than 100 pounds.

Working Conditions:

While performing the essential functions of this job the employee is frequently required to stand, walk, sit, use hands to finger, handle, or feel, reach with hands and arms, speak and hear, and must occasionally lift and/or move children.

Work is performed in a normal school and clinic environment and outdoors with exposure to outdoor temperatures, dirt and dust.

The incumbent's working conditions are typically moderately quiet, but may be loud at times and at some locations.

The incumbent will be required to do lifting of patients and be in situations that involve dealing with both physically and cognitively handicapped as well as their caregivers.

incumbent/applicant when possible.