

## PHYSICAL THERAPIST

### DEFINITION

Under direction, to plan, develop, and perform physical therapy for physically disabled children up to age 21; and to do related work as required.

### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is a specialized single-position classification for the development and performance of physical therapy for children covered by California Crippled Children Services benefits.

### REPORTS TO

Director of Nursing Services.

### CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None

### EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Plans and carries out a full range of physical therapy involving specialized skills for neuromuscularly, orthopedically, and physically disabled children; interviews patients and parents; evaluates patient's physical condition; reviews clinical records, medical prescriptions, and/or physician referral to develop treatment plans; observes patient reactions and notes changes; adopts and applies treatment procedures for severely disabled children; instructs parents in the proper use of wheelchairs, crutches, canes, braces, and prosthetic devices and appliances; modifies treatment plans in response to significant changes in patient's condition; devises or adapts equipment as required; maintains treatment records; consults with others involved with patient treatment to maintain consistency; attends clinics, conferences, and meetings; may coordinate and employ several treatment approaches to accomplish treatment objectives; may perform special evaluations and tests; instructs others in patient positioning for therapy treatment; may work at different sites in the County.

### TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for periods of time; frequently stand and walk; special manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination for application of physical therapy; use proper positioning and movement techniques for disabled persons; lift and move object weighing up to 50 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

## **TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS**

Work is usually performed in an clinic environment; continuous contact with staff and the public.

## **DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS**

### Knowledge of:

- Principles and practices of physical therapy, especially for disabled children.
- Kinesiology and modalities.
- Neuromuscular function and dysfunction.
- Physiology and skeletal anatomy.
- Construction and use of orthopedic appliances and equipment.
- Psychological problems of persons with disabilities.

### Ability to:

- Plan therapy treatments and make modifications as a person progresses.
- Evaluate the condition and progress of patients with regard to physical therapy needs.
- Develop therapeutic techniques and devices.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of physical therapy techniques.
- Coordinate different treatment approaches to accomplish objectives.
- Instruct others in body positioning for therapy treatments.
- Coordinate treatment plans with other staff.
- Prepare and maintain accurate medical records.
- Deal tactfully and courteously with patients and their families.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships.

Training and Experience: Any combination of training and experience which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

Two (2) years of responsible work experience as a professional physical therapist.

Special Requirement: Possession of valid registration as a Physical Therapist issued by the State of California.