

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT TITLE DEFINITION

I. DEFINITION

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

This is technical physical therapy work. Positions allocated to this title definition perform any combination of the following duties to assist a licensed Physical Therapist implement a physical therapy treatment program for physically, developmentally, mentally, and/or emotionally handicapped individuals at a UW-institution. Responsibilities include assisting a Physical Therapist in the evaluation of patients' or residents' physical therapy needs, and establishing goals and treatment approaches; independently administering physical therapy treatments developed by a Physical Therapist, such as active and passive manual therapeutic exercises, heat, light, sound, water, and electric modality treatments, therapeutic massage, and traction; evaluating the effectiveness of therapy and modifying to meet established goals; fitting, adjusting, and maintaining adaptive equipment, and training patients or residents in its use; implementing a physical therapy program in conjunction with other therapy programs; conferring with members of physical therapy staff and other health care professionals to exchange, discuss, and evaluate information for planning, modifying, and coordinating therapy programs; preparing written progress reports on participants and programs; providing orientation to and training newly hired Physical Therapy Assistants and/or Therapy Assistants; performing clerical duties, such as ordering supplies and equipment; attending departmental staff meetings and in-service educational programs; and performing related work, as requested. Positions may lead Physical Therapy Assistants, Therapy Assistants, volunteers, students, and/or other workers in the provision of physical therapy. Work is performed under general supervision.

II. QUALIFICATIONS

448.51 License Required. (1) Except as provided in s.448.52, no person may practice physical therapy unless the person is licensed as a physical therapist under this subchapter.

(1s) No person may designate himself or herself as a physical therapist assistant, use or assume the title "physical therapist assistant," ...unless the person is licensed as a physical therapist assistant under this subchapter."

III. RELATED POSITION TITLES

1. Positions that perform technical occupational therapy work a majority of the time (50% or more) and are more appropriately classified as Occupational Therapy Assistant.
2. Positions that perform technical respiratory therapy work a majority of the time (50% or more) and are more appropriately classified as Respiratory Therapist.
3. Positions that perform technical therapy work a majority of the time (50% or more) where no degree, certification, or license is required, and are more appropriately classified as a Therapy Assistant.

4. Positions that perform professional physical therapy work a majority of the time (50% or more) and are more appropriately classified as Physical Therapist.
5. Positions that do not meet the licensure requirements in 448.51 and perform Physical Therapy Assistant duties and responsibilities shall be allocated to a different classification series.