

CLASS SPECIFICATION



CLASS: Physical Therapist
ALLOCATION: Health & Human Services
FLSA STATUS: Non-Exempt
UNION AFFILIATION: YCEA

ESTABLISHED: Circa 1996
REVISED: October 2020

JOB SUMMARY:

Under general supervision, to provide professional physical therapy services for physically disabled children and adolescents; and to do other work as required.

This is a stand-alone medical professional classification.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS:

This position reports directly to the Health Officer. This class is distinguished from the Health Officer in that the latter is a licensed physician that provides overall medical direction and guidance for Public Health. The CCS Physical Therapist performs physical therapy in a Medical Therapy Unit for the California Children's Services Program for physically disabled children and adolescents. An incumbent works directly from a physician's prescription, which frequently allows considerable latitude in methods of treatment. Therapy plans are developed individually and in conjunction with other staff and carried out by incumbents.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Essential:

- Screen, evaluate and treat patients for physical therapy services; develop long-and short-term physical therapy plans as prescribed by physicians.
- Administer diagnostic and prognostic tests to assist in developing a treatment plan and evaluates range of motion, sensation, and developmental levels.
- Confer with physicians, nursing staff and other physical and occupational therapists regarding proposed treatment plans.
- Review patient information, receive requests for physical therapy, and log in information; ensure that all patient records are integrated and up-to-date; schedule and coordinate appointments for physical therapy work as required.
- Explain procedures to clients, doctors and/or family members; answer questions and instruct the client regarding physical therapy processes and results; explain orthopedic recommendations to clients.
- Maintain current knowledge of physical therapy equipment and quality control techniques; participate in meetings to ensure proper education of the healthcare team; review policies and procedures related to physical therapy activities and recommend and implement improvements.
- Design and construct or direct construction of special equipment and splints; teach exercises to children and adolescents.
- Instruct children in walking, standing, balancing, and the use of crutches and braces.
- Consult with teachers, speech therapists and others as necessary.
- Supervise the care of braces.
- Maintain accurate records and prepare reports on patients' treatment and progress.

Important:

- Comply with all County equipment and safety policies and procedures, and California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CalOSHA) rules and regulations.
- Observe patient response to therapy, maintains clinical notes, and prepares required reports.
- Requisition equipment and supplies; maintain equipment.
- Use standard office equipment, including a computer, in the course of the work.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledge of:

- Objectives and methods of physical therapy.
- Principles of physical therapy for treating children and adolescents, birth to age 21, with chronic neuromuscular, muscular and orthopedic disabilities.
- Testing and evaluating developmental, muscular and neural functions.
- Neuromuscular function and dysfunction.

- Skeletal anatomy, kinesiology and basic pathology of people with physical disabilities.
- The construction, use and care of orthopedic appliances and equipment.
- Psychological problems of children and adolescents and their effects on family members.
- Applicable laws, codes and regulations.
- Proper techniques for documenting services provided.
- Computer applications related to the work.
- Techniques for dealing with a variety of individuals from various socio-economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Skill in:

- Teaching clients self-care and other suitable activities;
- Understanding and interpreting physicians' orders and adapting treatment programs to individual circumstances;
- Communicating verbal and written ideas clearly and logically;
- Preparing reports and maintaining clinical case records;
- Establishing and maintaining effective relationships with clients and others contacted in the course of the work.
- Setting up treatment care plans for physically disabled children and adolescents.
- Serving as a technical expert to other healthcare staff in the area of physical therapy services.
- Reading and analyzing a variety of technical periodicals, professional journals and similar materials.
- Interpreting, applying and explaining laws, rules, policies, procedures and technical information.
- Using initiative and independent judgment within established policy and procedural guidelines.
- Dealing successfully with a variety of individuals from various socio-economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Ability to:

- Maintain confidential information according to legal standards and/or regulations of the Federal, State and County governments and ethical/legal obligations of the medical profession.
- Understand and interpret physicians' orders and to adapt treatment programs to individual circumstances.
- Exercise tact and good judgment in dealing with patients, staff and the public.
- Listen carefully to what other people are saying, take time to understand the points being made, and ask questions as appropriate for clarification.
- Communicate competently and effectively in writing and verbally as appropriate for the needs of the audience.
- Work effectively within a large organization as a loyal team player and to support Yuba County's strategic priorities.
- Keep clinical case records.
- Maintain composure, keep emotions in check, control anger, and avoid aggressive behavior, even in very difficult situations.

Physical Demands: The physical demands and work environment described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential function of the job, with or without accommodation. Prospective employees must complete a pre-employment medical exam (Occupational Group III) which will measure the ability to:

- See well enough to read fine print and view a computer screen; speak and hear well enough to understand, respond, and communicate clearly in person and on the telephone; independent body mobility sufficient to stand, sit, walk, stoop and bend to access the work environment and a standard office environment; manual dexterity and sufficient use of hands, arms and shoulders to repetitively operate a keyboard and to write; and the ability to sit or walk for prolonged periods of time.
- Mobility to work in a typical clinical setting and use equipment standard to the field.
- Stamina to stand, sit and/or walk for extended periods and lift and move varied equipment weighing up to 50 pounds.

Accommodation may be made for some of these physical demands for otherwise qualified individuals who require and request such accommodation.

Work Environment:

- Generally a typical office, school or clinic environment.
- Potential exposure to contagious or infectious diseases or hazardous substances and chemicals.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The minimum and preferred requirements are listed below. While the following requirements outline the minimum qualifications, Human Resources reserves the right to select applicants for further consideration who demonstrate the best qualifications match for the job. Meeting the minimum qualifications does not guarantee further participation in selection procedures.

Licenses and Certification:

- Possession of a valid license to practice physical therapy issued by the State of California, as required by Section 2650 of the California Business and Professions Code.
- Maintain license through continuing education as required.
- The ability to obtain a valid California Class C driver's license within ten (10) days of employment; maintain throughout employment.

Special Requirements:

- Must successfully complete an extensive and thorough background investigation which may include Live Scan fingerprinting prior to hire.
- Will be required to perform disaster service activities pursuant to Government Code 3100-3109.
- Attend meetings outside of normal working hours.
- Respond to emergency situations during weekends, holidays and other off-shift hours.

Education and Experience:

MINIMUM: Graduation from an accredited graduate program in physical therapy or other physical therapy curriculum approved by the Department of Consumer Affairs Physical Therapy Board of California and one year of experience as a licensed physical therapist.

PREFERRED: In addition to the minimum, some experience in providing therapy to physically handicapped children or in a pediatrics program.

This class specification lists the major duties and requirements of the job. Incumbent may be expected to perform job-related duties other than those contained in this document.

Dept Approval:
Date:

Signature: _____

Human Resources Approval:
Date:

Signature: _____

EEOC: B	
WC: 9410	
Established:	Circa 1996
Revised:	March 1996
	November 2015