

DACUM Competency Profile for The Physical Therapist Assistant

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The Physical Therapist Assistant is one who provides treatments and documentation of treatment under the supervision and guidelines of a Physical Therapist, to maximize the functional abilities of each individual patient.

Duties		Tasks			
A	Perform Continuous Assessment	A-1 Assess Mechanical Alignment	A-2 Assess Gait	A-3 Assess Posture	A-4 Measure Range of Motion
		A-5 Manual Muscle Testing	A-6 Assess Change in Muscle Tone	A-7 Recognize symptoms of Contra-indications to Treatment	A-8 Assess Vital Signs
		A-9 Assess Tolerance to Activity	A-10 Assess Tolerance to Treatment	A-11 Assess Appropriateness of TX Goals	A-12 Assess Patient Accountability
		A-13 Assess & Screen Patients for Potential Interventions			
B	Deliver Treatment Modalities	B-1 Administer Ultrasound	B-2 Administer Hot Pack Treatments	B-3 Apply Cryotherapy	B-4 Provide Hydrotherapy
		B-5 Administer Diathermy	B-6 Administer Electrical Stimulation Therapy	B-7 Administer Paraffin Treatment	B-8 Administer Fluidotherapy
		B-9 Administer Mechanical Traction	B-10 Administer Sequential Pumping		
C	Perform Physical Therapy Procedures	C-1 Provide Pregait, Transfer & Gait Training	C-2 Provide Prosthetic Training	C-3 Mobilize Soft Tissue	C-4 Provide Wound Care/Burn Care
		C-5 Administer & Supervise Functional Electrical Stimulation	C-6 Administer Iontophoresis	C-7 Administer Phonophoresis	C-8 Passive Joint Mobilization
		C-9 Passive R.O.M.	C-10 Apply & Modify Orthotics	C-11 Perform Manual Traction	C-12 Administer Spray & Stretch

D	Therapeutic Exercise	D-1 Facilitate Neurodevelopmental Training	D-2 Provide Active/Resistive Range of Motion	D-3 Provide Active Assistive R.O.M.	D-4 Administer Biofeedback
		D-5 Provide Aquatic Therapy	D-6 Administer Proprioceptive Neuromuscular Facilitation	D-7 Provide Open/Closed Chain Exercises	D-8 Provide Balance/Stabilization Exercises
		D-9 Administer Chest Therapy			
E	Provide Education	E-1 Teach Patient/Caregiver Home Exercise Programs	E-2 Teach Patient/Caregiver Activities of Daily Living	E-3 Provide Patient/Caregiver Joint Protection Education	E-4 Teach Patient/Caregiver Pain Control & Management
		E-5 Teach Patient/Caregiver Stress Management	E-6 Provide Community Education		
F	Documenting Patient Care/Progress	F-1 Document Assessments	F-2 Documentation of Treatments/Functional Outcomes	F-3 Generate Periodic Patient Progress Reports	F-4 Document Equipment Needs
		F-5 Document Patient/Caregiver Teaching	F-6 Integrate Visual Support in Documentation	F-7 Generate Charges for Treatment & Supplies	F-8 Document Discharge Planning
G	Participate Interdisciplinary Planning	G-1 Report Patient Status to Primary Therapist	G-2 Participate in Planning Sessions With the Therapist	G-3 Coordinate Treatment Schedules	G-4 Participate in Discharge Planning
		G-5 Make recommendations to primary therapist for changes in patients treatment plan			
H	Assist with Department Management	H-1 Maintain Equipment	H-2 Maintain Inventory of Supplies	H-3 Participate in Staff Meetings	H-4 Precept/Mentor P.T.A. Students/Rehab Aides
		H-5 Participate in Data Collection for Quality Assurance	H-6 Performs various office duties		
I	Maintain Professional Development	I-1 Maintain Safety Certifications	I-2 Participate in Continuing Education/Staff Development	I-3 Maintain Licensure	I-4 Participate in Professional Organizations

CURRENT TRENDS/ISSUES

- Aging Population
- Changes in Reimbursement
- Managed Care
- Consolidation of Services
- DRG's
- Ergonomics
- Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms
- Opportunities for Professional Growth & Education
- Capitation
- Wound Care
- Women's Health Issues
- Manual Therapy
- Aquatic Therapy

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Physio-Pathology
- Kinesiology
- Physics Applied to Medicine
- Body Mechanics
- Aseptic Techniques
- Communication Skills (Oral/Written)
- Computer Skills
- C.P.R.
- Cultural Awareness
- Age Specific Awareness
- Departmental Policies & Procedures
- Knowledge of English
- Infection Control
- Interpersonal Skills
- Listening Skills
- Mechanical Skills
- Medical Terminology
- Organizational Skills
- Patient's Rights
- Problem Solving Skills
- State & Federal Regulations
- Stress Management Skills
- Teaching Skills
- Universal Precautions
- Cost Containment & Medical Eco.
- Elementary Psychology
- Elementary Psychiatry
- Knowledge of
 - Rehab Disc.
 - O.T.
 - S.T.
 - Nursing PCP
- Goniometry
- Observation Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Elementary Pharmacology
- Take Vitals
- Medical Ethics
- Information Management
- Medical Imaging
- Knowledge of 3rd Party Payor
- Leadership Skills

- Computer Tech
- Cost Containment

TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

- Ultrasound Machine
- Ultrasound Gel
- Diathermy
- Electric Stimulation Machines
 - High Volt Galvanic
 - Interferential
 - FES (Functional Electrical Stimulation)
- TENS
- Media - Sponges, Gel
- Paraffin
- Traction
 - Cervical
 - Pelvic
- Belts Application
- Computer Assistive
- Isokinetic Machine
- Sequential Pumps
 - Pumps/Hose/Measurement
- Free Weights
- Reflex Hammers
- Isotonic Exercise Equipment
 - Hand Grips
- Hotpack
- Iontophoresis and Medications
 - Dex/Lido/Hydrocortisones
- Cold Pack
- Fluoromethane Spray
- Goniometer
- Measuring Tapes
- Walkers
 - Front Wheel
 - Pick up
 - Platform
 - Hemi
 - Reciprocating Walker
 - Wheelchair
- Canes
 - Quad - Wide Base - Narrow Base
 - Single point
 - Crutches
 - Hemi-cane
- Orthotics
 - Wrist Splints
 - Knee Braces
 - Back Braces
 - Sacro-Iliac Joint/Lumbar Corset
 - Slings
 - Dry Casting
 - Ankle Foot Orthosis
- Computers
 - Laser
 - Cameras
 - Video
- Hospital Beds
 - Roto bed

- Blood Pressure Cuff
- Stethoscope
- Sterilization & Disinfectant Agents
- Gait Belts
- Beepers - Pagers
- Balms - Chemical Irritants
- Theraband
- Crash Cart
- Faces
 - Masks/Bonnet/Gowns/Gloves/Goggles
- Dressings for Wound Care
- Swiss Balls
- Bikes-Stationary/Restorator
- Balance Board
- Cardiac Monitor
- Ergometer
- Medicine ball
- Tru-K-Isokinetic Resistance Machine
- Trampoline
- Pools
- High/Low Manipulation Table
- Syphgmomenometer
- Treadmill
- Whirlpools
- Tilt Table
- Total Lift Chair
- Hoyer Lift
- Biofeedback
- Standing Cage/Standing Table
- Raised Toilet Seat
- Tumblers
- Parallel Bars
- Reachers
- Balance Beams
- Sliding Boards
- Powder Boards
- Stairs/Ramps
- Prosthetics
 - Arms
 - Below Knee
 - Above the Knee
- Athletic Tape
- Needles

WORKER TRAITS & BEHAVIORS

- Accept Constructive Criticism
- Compassionate
- Assertive
- Team Player
- Honesty
- Confidentiality
- Efficient (ability to manage multiple tasks)
- Ethical
- Patient's Rights
- Manual Dexterity
- Organized
- Sense of Humor
- Physically Fit
- Follow Directions
- Personal Hygiene

WORKER TRAITS & BEHAVIORS

- Punctuality
- Flexible
- Creative
- Adaptable