

PTA Program Competencies: Expected Student Outcomes

1.0 Prepares for participation in PT patient care process

1.1 Communicates verbally and non-verbally
1.2 Recognizes individual and cultural differences
1.3 Recognizes reaction to illness and disability
1.4 Exhibits professional conduct
1.5 Exhibits social responsibility
1.6 Interprets and explains plan of care written by PT related to the long term and short term goals and intended outcome
1.7 Recognize contraindications to treatment and respond appropriately
1.8 Recognizes role of PT vs. PTA
1.9 Apply knowledge of <i>science</i>
1.10 Recognize disease characteristics that impact on function
1.11 Recognize developmental changes across the lifespan
1.12 Demonstrate problem solving skills

2.0 Provides basic interventions

2.1 Move, position and drape patient
2.2 Use isolation precautions and sterile technique
2.3 Apply principles of posture and body mechanics
2.4 Perform ROM exercise
2.5 Assist with pre-ambulation activities
2.6 Utilize adaptive and assistive devices
2.7 Utilize prosthetics and orthotics
2.8 Provide gait and locomotion training
2.9 Assist pt with activities of daily living
2.10 Teach wheelchair management skills
2.11 Provides patient, family and caregiver education per plan of care
2.12 Responds to emergency situations
2.13 Teaches transfers

3.0 Provides modalities for patient care

3.1 Apply superficial heat and cold modalities
3.2 Apply deep heat and phonophoresis
3.3 Apply electromagnetic radiation
3.4 Apply electrotherapeutic agents
3.5 Use hydrotherapy or therapeutic pool
3.6 Provide therapeutic massage
3.7 Apply biofeedback and related exercise
3.8 Apply traction
3.9 Apply edema control measures including compression
3.10 Assist with wound management

4.0 Provides specialty related PT interventions/ therapeutic exercise

4.1 Incorporate developmental activities
4.2 Provide exercise instruction for aerobic conditioning
4.3 Provide balance and coordination training
4.4 Instruct in breathing exercise and coughing techniques
4.5 Assist with conditioning and reconditioning
4.6 Provide posture awareness training
4.7 Perform strengthening and stretching exercise
4.8 Apply concepts of joint biomechanics
4.9 Provide rehab procedures for patients with orthopedic problems
4.10 Provide rehab procedures for patients with neurological problems
4.11 Assists with return to prior functional level
4.12 Provide rehab procedures for patients with general medical conditions

5.0 Gathers data for physical therapist

5.1 Obtain factual information from the medical record
5.2 Monitors vital signs at rest, with position changes or activity
5.3 Assess aerobic capacity and endurance
5.4 Monitors breathing movements and patterns at rest and with activity
5.5 Assess height, weight, length and girth
5.6 Assess posture and positioning at rest and with activity
5.7 Assess pain at rest and with activity
5.8 Recognize change in arousal, mentation and cognition
5.9 Monitors use of assistive, adaptive, protective and other devices
5.10 Assess functional status
5.11 Assess gait, locomotion and balance
5.12 Assess and monitor skin and sensation
5.13 Assess muscle performance
5.14 Recognize neuromotor development
5.15 Assess joint integrity and mobility
5.16 Measure range of motion
5.17 Assess pt. status related to home, community or work
5.18 Assess ventilation, respiration, and circulation
5.19 Perform palpation

6.0 Demonstrates clinical skills

6.1 Prepare work environment
6.2 Perform pre-treatment interview and assessment
6.3 Provide PT intervention
6.4 Monitor patient and adjust intervention within the plan of care and reports changes to the supervising PT
6.5 Perform post-treatment interview and assessment
6.6 Communicate effectively for patient situation
6.7 Manage time and resources
6.8 Document relevant aspects of patient care
6.9 Perform self assessment of clinical skills

7.0 Assists with service management

7.1 Participate in interdisciplinary communication
7.2 Provide billing and reimbursement information
7.3 Orders supplies and equipment
7.4 Describe organizational structure
7.5 Participates in performance improvement
7.6 Comply with standard operating procedures
7.7 Explain and apply ethical and legal work requirements
7.8 Participate in discharge planning and follow up care
7.9 Explain the purpose and value of the profession

8.0 Plans for lifelong learning and teaching

8.1 Read and understand health care literature
8.2 Instruct other members of the health care team
8.3 Educates others about role of the PTA
8.4 Plans for career development
8.5 Provides clinical education to peers