

## **THERAPY AIDE**

### **Definition:**

Under direct supervision of a physical therapist, or occupational therapist performs designated tasks related to the operation of the physical therapy or occupational therapy service.

### **Distinguishing Characteristics**

Therapy Aides receive on-the-job training and supervision in the performance of job duties. Incumbents in this classification are assigned to Kern Medical Center and the Public Health Department/California Children's Services (CCS).

### **Essential Functions:**

- Prepares patients for physical and/or occupational therapy which may include hydrotherapy, and deep heat treatments.
- Applies dressings after debridement.
- Assists in walker, crutch, gait training programs and group activities.
- Assists and instructs patients in treatment activities and use of therapeutic equipment.
- Assists in the lifting and moving patients.
- Makes oral and/or written reports to the physical or occupational therapists relating to services provided.
- Demonstrates knowledge of growth and development and/or aging process and an understanding of the range of treatment needed by the patients.
- Prepares treatment areas and equipment for therapy appointments.
- Prepares treatment records and documentation of the services provided by physical or occupational therapists for billing purposes.
- Communicates with partners in treatment, such as treatment providers, family members, or community supportive services, concerning treatment issues.
- Transports patients as necessary
- Performs other job related duties as required.

Incumbents must have the ability to perform the Essential Functions of the job.

### **Employment Standards:**

Graduation from high school or satisfactory completion of a G.E.D. test.

Dependent upon assignment a valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment.

Possession and maintenance of a current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Basic Life Support (BLS) card. Appointees not possessing the BLS card must successfully complete appropriate training and qualify for the BLS card within 60 days of employment.

**Knowledge of:** body structure and functions; general hygienic methods and practices; practical nursing care and procedures; procedures and equipment used in physical or occupational therapy work and good interpersonal skills.

**Ability to:** recognize common physical illnesses and diseases; assist staff in performing lifting duties; work in close physical contact with persons with physical disabilities; interact effectively with patients, patient's families and hospital staff; accurately document physical therapy services provided; maintain medical records; follow oral and written instructions and communicate verbally and in writing.

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated "Disaster Service Workers" through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec.3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services). As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable, following a significant emergency or disaster.