

Winslow Indian Health Care Center
STAFF PHYSICAL THERAPIST

INTRODUCTION:

This position is located within the Winslow Indian Health Care Center. The employee is responsible for providing physical therapy, education, and consultation for all health center services. Works under the immediate supervision of the Chief of Physical Therapy.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Responsible for high degree of professional competence, skill and judgement in assessment, planning and carrying out treatment modalities, patient education and discharge planning for a variety of inpatient and outpatient situations.
- Participates/assists in education programs.
- Participates in clinical research efforts and assists in specialty clinics.
- Plans and carries out physical therapy for general and surgical patients. Instruct patients regarding physical limitations of the muscle and bones following surgery or impairment.
- Teaches exercises and movements to be performed by patients to prevent occurrence of deformities or to lessen impact of deformities.
- Performs and interprets results of tests and measurements of patient's condition, for use in preparing the treatment plan, modifying treatment and evaluating result of treatment.
- Performs special tests to carry out complex procedures, determines kind and degree of muscle reactions to test, and interprets results of tests.
- Records progress of patients in medical record. Assesses continuing patient care and updates protocols/procedures as necessary.
- Provides consultation and evaluation Physical Therapy Services, within their scope of practice, to physicians, other providers, nursing and other professionals at the service unit using tact, professional judgement and ethical conduct.
- Attends medical staff rounds as needed and more frequently if necessary to keep updated on patient problems and recommend appropriate physical therapy intervention.
- Provides direct supervision to Supportive Staff and Physical Therapy students as indicated, and in absence of Chief Physical Therapist or Deputy Chief.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES REQUIRED BY THE POSITION:

Knowledge Required by the Position:

- Demonstrate adequate knowledge of the concepts, principles and practices of Physical Therapy.
- Professional knowledge of Physical Therapy principles, practices, theories and procedures to carry out treatment, exercise and testing a variety of patients having physical disorders.
- Knowledge of physical agents such as air, water, electricity, sound, and radiant energy to treat a variety of physical disabilities.
- Skill in devising adaptations of equipment for the specific type of exercise or treatment required for the patient's condition.

Supervisory Controls:

- Incumbent is under the clinical and administrative supervision of the Chief of Physical Therapy or Deputy Chief. However, the Staff Physical Therapist must be able to work with a high degree of independence in judgement, planning and carrying out complex treatment objectives based

upon their professional knowledge and experience. The employee is responsible for developing treatment plans and adaptations of equipment as necessary. The work is peer reviewed on the quality of patient care and the objectives that have been met applied to set standards.

Guidelines:

- National standards of care will be expected with written and oral guides available for reference.
- The employee uses judgment in developing guidelines for Physical Therapy, updating guidelines based on new procedures in the profession, interprets test results, and adapts equipment and treatment to meet patient's needs.
- Incumbent must have a Master Degree in Physical Therapy from an accredited university, and hold a valid license to practice Physical Therapy from any state.

Complexity:

- Must be able to address complex range of problems typically found in a busy Physical Therapy service. This includes development of a program for assessment of quality and appropriateness of patient care by observing progress and response, reevaluation of past records, upgrading treatment procedures as patient's response warrants, and including consultation with referring Physicians, Physician's Assistants and other Professional Staff where appropriate.
- Works closely with existing federal, tribal and private agencies in providing the maximum in Physical Therapy services by using community resources.

Scope and Effect:

- The purpose of the Staff Physical Therapist is to work with the health center staff and community health workers in delivering optimal health care.
- The Staff Physical Therapist will provide physical therapy services by direct patient care, consultation and staff education.
- The work will impact significantly on patient care in that the fulfillment of comprehensive care for many of the service unit patients.

Personal Contacts:

- The Staff Physical Therapist will be expected to interact in a positive manner with the Chief of Physical Therapy, Deputy Chief, Physical Therapy Assistants, Practitioners, Patients, Nurses and other health center personnel.

Purpose of Contacts:

- Contacts are made to obtain information about patients from the consulting Physician, from the Field Health Nurse or from the Nursing Staff caring for the patient. In turn, the Staff Physical Therapist advises the staff about the patient's condition and makes recommendations for further care.
- Interactions are also for improving the overall management of the Physical Therapy Program. Much of the contact will be to educate the patient, health center staff, and the community in areas of physical therapy.

Physical Demands:

- The work involves considerable walking, bending, manipulation of equipment, and occasional lifting and moving of patients.

Work Environment:

- The Staff Physical Therapist will work in a modern and well-equipped facility, which presents no hazards if good judgement and common sense are exercised.

As required by P.L. 93-638, absolute preference will be given to qualified Navajo applicants. If there are no qualified Navajo applicants, preference will be given to qualified Indian applicants.

Revised: 03/30/2007, ml