# PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

**The following core performance standards are required in this program.**

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| **PERFORMANCE** | **STANDARD** | **ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES/TASKS****(NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)** |
| CRITICAL THINKING | Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment | * Recognizes physiological changes in patient status and responds appropriately
* Modifies treatment plan within the plan of care
* Utilizes patient assessment techniques to alter physical therapy treatments within the plan of care
* Must work under physically and emotionally demanding situations and respond appropriately
* Utilize basic math skills to safely implement reading goniometer, calculating target heart rates, traction, girth and volumetric measurements, stair and ramp measurements, and wheelchair and cushion measurements.
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| INTERPERSONAL SKILLS | Interpersonal skills sufficient to interact with co-workers, members of the healthcare team, as well as patients and their families from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, educational, religious, and ethnic backgrounds | * Establishes rapport with colleagues, other healthcare providers, patients and their families.
* Communicate in a meaningful manner with patients, families, and healthcare colleagues
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| COMMUNICATION SKILLS | Communication skillssufficient for interactionwith others verbally,nonverbally, and bywriting | * Explains treatment procedures, implements effective patient education, documents assessment, treatments, and patient responses
* Demonstrates documentation procedures and verbal communication concerning patients
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| TACTILE | Tactile ability sufficient for patient assessment | * Palpates muscles and other anatomical structures to define abnormalities
* Demonstrates method for palpating artery sites, muscle and joint normal and abnormal characteristics
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| MOBILITY | Physical ability to move from one area of the facility to another and maneuver in small spaces | * Moves from one patient room to another and administers treatments in small spaces
* Travels from one area of the facility to another (ICU, TCU)
* Demonstrates proper procedures for moving

patients in a safe manner * Lifts at least 50lbs of weight
* Demonstrates proper lifting techniques
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| MOTOR SKILLS | Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to administer physical therapy treatments safely and effectively | * Performs and teaches dependent and assistive patient transfers (sometimes moving very large and patients who can assist very little or not at all)
* Positions patients appropriately for treatment
* Performs assistive, passive, and resistive exercises and may be required to stand for long periods of time
* Applies physical therapy modalities such as heat, ultrasound, cryotherapy, and hydrotherapy for patient treatment
* Guards patents during gait training with or without assistive devices
* Utilizes equipment necessary for treatment
* Moves self and equipment/supplies for treatment from one area of the facility to another (sometimes more than one piece of equipment or supply at a time)
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| HEARING | Auditory ability sufficient to monitor patient needs | * Listens to heart and lung sounds, as well as monitor blood pressure with a  stethoscope/sphygmomanometer
* Hears patients call for assistance
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| VISUAL | Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment essential to physical therapy | * Observes patient responses to treatment
* Observe patient exercise and gait to detect abnormal patterns
* Identification of patient, verification of ultrasound and temperature calibration and other physical therapy equipment requiring reading of dials or screens
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| ACCOUNTABILITY & RESPONSIBILITY | Demonstrate accountability and responsibility in all aspects of the physical therapy profession | * Able to distinguish right from wrong, legal from illegal and act accordingly
* Accept responsibility for own actions
* Able to comprehend ethical standards and agree to abide by them
* Consider the needs of patients in deference to one’s own needs
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