# 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. |
| 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 |
| COMMUNICATION SKILLS | Communication skills  sufficient for interaction  with others verbally,  nonverbally, and by  writing | * Explains treatment procedures, implements effective patient education, documents assessment, treatments, and patient responses * Demonstrates documentation procedures and verbal communication concerning patients |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |