



New Mexico State Personnel Office

2600 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-0127

Classification Description

PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

<u>Class Title</u>	<u>Class Code</u>	<u>Pay Band</u>	<u>Alt Pay Band*</u>
Physical Therapist Assistants-B	L2021B	45	
Physical Therapist Assistants-O	L2021B	50	
Physical Therapist Assistants-A	L2021B	55	

**In accordance with SPB Rule 1.7.4.10 NMAC, the assignment to alternative pay bands shall be reviewed annually to determine their appropriateness.*

Occupation Description

Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with State laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist. Generally requires formal training.

Nature of Work

Physical therapist assistants assist physical therapists in providing care to patients. Under the direction and supervision of physical therapists, they provide exercise, instruction; therapeutic methods like; electrical stimulation, mechanical traction, and ultrasound; massage; and gait and balance training. Physical therapist assistants need a moderate degree of strength because of the physical exertion required in assisting patients with their treatment. In some cases, assistants need to lift patients. Frequent kneeling, stooping, bending, and standing for long periods also are part of the job. They record the patient's responses to treatment and report the outcome of each treatment to the physical therapist.

Distinguishing Characteristics of Levels

Note: Examples of Work are intended to be cumulative for each progressively higher level of work. The omission of specific statements does not preclude management from assigning other duties which are reasonably within the scope of the duties.

Basic

- Employees in this Role assist in simple physical therapy functions, treatments, and procedures while receiving training.

Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance

Associates Degree from an accredited Physical Therapist Assistant Program and one (1) year experience under the direction of a Licensed Physical Therapist.

Minimum Qualifications

Associates Degree from an accredited Physical Therapist Assistant Program.

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Operational

- Employees in this Role independently assist in the administration of physical therapy treatments and interventions.

Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance

Associates Degree from an accredited Physical Therapist Assistant Program and two (2) years experience under the direction of a Licensed Physical Therapist.

Minimum Qualifications

Associates Degree from an accredited Physical Therapist Assistant Program and one (1) year experience under the direction of a Licensed Physical Therapist.

Advanced

- Employees in this Role assist in development of treatment plans.
- Employees assist in carrying out routine functions; assist in directing activity programs, documenting the progress of treatments; and participate and perform portions of the evaluation and assessment of clients' needs for physical therapy services.

Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance

Associates Degree from an accredited Physical Therapist Assistant Program and four (4) years experience under the direction of a Licensed Physical Therapist.

Minimum Qualifications

Associates Degree from an accredited Physical Therapist Assistant Program and two (2) years experience under the direction of a Licensed Physical Therapist.

Knowledge and Skills

*Note: This information has been produced by compiling information and documentation provided by O*NET. O*NET™ is a trademark of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.*

Knowledge

Customer and Personal Service — Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

Therapy and Counseling — Knowledge of principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance.

Medicine and Dentistry — Knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.

Education and Training — Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.

Psychology — Knowledge of human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.

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English Language — Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.

Biology — Knowledge of plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.

Skills

Speaking — Talking to others to convey information effectively.

Active Listening — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

Social Perceptiveness — Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

Monitoring — Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

Coordination — Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.

Critical Thinking — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

Reading Comprehension — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.

Writing — Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.

Instructing — Teaching others how to do something.

Service Orientation — Actively looking for ways to help people.

Statutory Requirements: All applicants for this position must be licensed in accordance with Physical Therapy, 61-12D-1 through 61-12D-19 NMSA 1978 and 16.20.1 through 16.20.10 NMAC, as applicable.

You must include your license or certificate number in the "License" section of the application form.

Conditions of Employment: Working Conditions for individual positions in this classification will vary based on each *agency's utilization, essential functions, and the recruitment needs* at the time a vacancy is posted. All requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities.

Default FLSA Status: Non-Exempt. FLSA status may be determined to be different at the agency level based on the agency's utilization of the position.

Bargaining Unit: This position may be covered by a collective bargaining agreement and all terms/conditions of that agreement apply and must be adhered to.

Established: 07/07/2001

Revised: 9/20/2011

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**Adapted from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and are intended to illustrate the typical education and experience required for this occupation.*

Note: Classification description subject to change. Please refer to the SPO website www.spo.state.nm.us to ensure this represents the most current copy of the description.