

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION
PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose Of This Classification Specification

This classification specification is the basic authority under ER 2.04, Wis. Admin. Code, for making classification decisions relative to present and future positions that perform technical physical therapy work in a state hospital or institution. This classification specification will not specifically identify every eventuality or combination of duties and responsibilities of positions which currently exist, or those which result from changing program emphasis in the future; rather, it is designed to serve as a framework for classification decision making in this occupational area.

Classification decisions must be based on the "best fit" of the duties within the existing classification structure. The "best fit" is determined by the majority (i.e., more than 50%) of the work assigned to and performed by the position when compared to the class concepts and definition of this specification or through other methods of position analysis. Position analysis defines the nature and character of the work through the use of any or all of the following: definition statements; listing of areas of specialization; representative examples of work performed; allocation patterns of representative positions; job evaluation guide charts, standards or factors; statements of inclusion and exclusion; licensure or certification requirements; and other such information necessary to facilitate the assignment of positions to the appropriate classification.

B. Inclusions

These technical positions assist in the practice of physical therapy under the supervision of a licensed Physical Therapist. Physical Therapy Assistants must meet the licensure requirement under 448.51 Wis. Stats.

Positions included in this classification shall meet the qualification provisions identified in section III, "Qualifications," of this classification specification.

C. Exclusions

Excluded from this classification are the following types of positions:

1. Positions that perform technical occupational therapy work a majority of the time (50% or more) and are more appropriately classified as Occupational Therapy Assistant.
2. Positions that perform technical respiratory therapy work a majority of the time (50% or more) and are more appropriately classified as Respiratory Therapist.
3. Positions that perform technical therapy work a majority of the time (50% or more) where no degree, certification, or license is required, and are more appropriately classified as a Therapy Assistant.

4. Positions that do not perform technical physical therapy work a majority of the time (50% or more).
5. Positions that perform professional physical therapy work a majority of the time (50% or more) and are more appropriately classified as Physical Therapist.
6. Positions that meet the statutory definition(s) of supervisor and/or management as defined in s. 111.81(19) and (13), Wis. Stats., as administered and interpreted by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission.
7. Positions that do not meet the licensure requirements in 448.51 and perform Physical Therapy Assistant duties and responsibilities shall be allocated to a different classification series.
8. All other positions that are more appropriately identified by other classification specifications.

D. Entrance Into This Classification

Employees enter positions within this classification by competitive examination.

II. DEFINITION

PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

This is technical physical therapy work. Positions allocated to this classification perform any combination of the following duties to assist a licensed Physical Therapist implement a physical therapy treatment program for physically, developmentally, mentally, and/or emotionally handicapped patients or residents of a state hospital or institution. Responsibilities include assisting a Physical Therapist in the evaluation of patients' or residents' physical therapy needs, and establishing goals and treatment approaches; independently administering physical therapy treatments developed by a Physical Therapist, such as active and passive manual therapeutic exercises, heat, light, sound, water, and electric modality treatments, therapeutic massage, and traction; evaluating the effectiveness of therapy and modifying to meet established goals; fitting, adjusting, and maintaining adaptive equipment, and training patients or residents in its use; implementing a physical therapy program in conjunction with other therapy programs; conferring with members of physical therapy staff and other health care professionals to exchange, discuss, and evaluate information for planning, modifying, and coordinating therapy programs; preparing written progress reports on participants and programs; providing orientation to and training newly hired Physical Therapy Assistants and/or Therapy Assistants; performing clerical duties, such as ordering supplies and equipment; attending departmental staff meetings and in-service educational programs; and performing related work, as requested. Positions may lead Physical Therapy Assistants, Therapy Assistants, volunteers, students, and/or other workers in the provision of physical therapy. Work is performed under general supervision.

III. QUALIFICATIONS

448.51 License Required. (1) Except as provided in s.448.52, no person may practice physical therapy unless the person is licensed as a physical therapist under this subchapter.

(1s) No person may designate himself or herself as a physical therapist assistant, use or assume the title "physical therapist assistant," ...unless the person is licensed as a physical therapist assistant under this subchapter."

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

This classification was created effective June 1, 2003 and announced in Bulletin MRS-SC-161 to describe positions that have been collapsed as part of a classification modification project for the technical classifications, collapsed to a single level classification. This specification was modified to add the licensure requirement on November 14, 2004, and announced in Bulletin OSER-0055-MRS/SC.

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