

Healthcare Career Paths

No experience

THERAPY AIDE

Education
High School Diploma

Certification
CNA or two years experience or
college preferred

Degree

PHYSICAL
THERAPIST

Education
Doctorate Degree

Certification
Physical Therapist License



Degree

PHYSICAL
THERAPY
ASSISTANT

Education
AAS Degree or Technical
Certificate (1 yr or less)

Certification
Physical Therapy Assistant License

Physical Therapy Aide

A physical therapy aide will work under the guidance of a licensed provider to provide therapy services to patients and assist with other department tasks. PTAs will often do chart reconciliation for providers. They can assist during patient evaluations, exercises and procedures. They may be trained to carry out specific kinds of treatment, under the direction of a PT or OT. They are responsible for maintaining accurate and consistent documentation. One will also assist with setting up the room or station for patients. They are responsible for practicing regular maintenance and cleanliness of patient areas and equipment.

Skills: Knowledgeable - Attention to Detail - Communication Skills (verbal and written) - Teamwork - Follow Directions - Adaptability

Physical Therapy Assistant

A physical therapy assistant will perform hands-on therapy techniques to patients of all demographics with guidance from a licensed provider. They will assist with creating a treatment or therapy plan based on individual patient needs. Physical Therapy Assistants are often in charge of maintaining proper and accurate documentation for patient cases. They will assist with educating the patient and family members on the maintenance of the therapy plan. They will assist in collaborating/educating with a team of providers to ensure the best care plan for a patient.

Skills: Physically Active - Collaborative - Communication Skills (verbal and written) - Empathetic - Follow Directions - Adaptability - Personable

Physical Therapist

A physical therapist performs therapy techniques for a variety of patient needs, injuries, and circumstances. They are knowledgeable and skilled in many areas of need and a variety of techniques and tools available; they can offer support, guidance, and instruction to support personnel. Physical therapists also handle logistics, planning, documentation, and collaboration on behalf of their patients and work in cooperation with other providers and practitioners assigned to each individual case. They must communicate effectively with patients, families, and support staff to ensure understanding and maintenance of a treatment plan.

Skills: Communication Skills (verbal and written) - Leadership Skills - Empathy - Adaptability - Mentorship - Attention to Detail