

## SCOPE OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES

### PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICE LAST UPDATED 22 JULY 2010

#### PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENTS & DPT

1. Under direct supervision of a credentialed physical therapist, physical therapy students will be expected to perform the following task:

a. Perform a history and appropriately evaluate patients referred by a physician or nonphysician health care provider to physical therapy for neuromusculoskeletal evaluation and appropriate treatment.

b. Present patient to staff physical therapist who will confirm or disagree with finding after appropriate patient review.

c. Record subjective and objective findings, assessment, plan of care and goal of treatment in SOAP + Goal format after case and treatment plan have been reviewed with staff physical therapist.

d. Provide treatment to restore joint mobility, strengthen muscles and relieve pain through the use of various modalities, exercises and transfer/gait training/ADL techniques.

e. May be allowed to perform mobilizations and muscle energy techniques if approved by supervising staff physical therapist.

f. Reevaluate patients referred for evaluation of neuromusculoskeletal dysfunctions and modify treatment program based on response to previously administered treatment regimen after conferring with staff physical therapist.

g. May be allowed to perform burn debridement in accordance with clinic standard operating procedures under the guidance of a staff therapist.

2. Physical therapy students may also be responsible for:

a. Attending Discharge Planning Conferences and reporting on the rehabilitation status of patients under the care.

b. Conferring with other health care providers such as orthopedic physicians, occupational therapist, radiologists, neurologist, electromyographers and internists regarding the appropriate management of outpatients with neuromusculoskeletal dysfunctions.

c. Conferring with nursing staff, residents and attending staff physicians regarding the medical status of an inpatient consulted for physical therapy or contraindications for continued treatment in physical therapy.

d. Conferring with social workers, discharge planning nurse and brace shop personnel regarding specific needs of patients undergoing physical therapy.

e. Monitoring an indicator of quality care and evaluating the effectiveness of corrective actions if

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the results of monitoring indicate that a problem exists.

f. Performing administrative duties to include proper coding and timely billing.

3. All notes written by physical therapy students for inclusion in the patient's medical record will be countersigned by a credentialed physical therapist.

4. Request for radiographs, medications, quarters and profiles must be approved by a credentialed physical therapist and that therapist must countersign all forms.

5. Physical therapy students will not be allowed to work on the wards independent of a credentialed physical therapist.

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**Student**

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**Date**