

Expected Student Learning Outcomes and Competencies

1.0 Demonstrate ethics, values and responsibilities appropriate to the PTA

1.1 Adhere to legal practice standards (including all federal, state, and institutional regulations) related to patient/ client care and fiscal management
1.2 Report to appropriate authorities suspected cases of abuse of vulnerable populations.
1.3 Report to appropriate authorities cases of fraud and abuse related to use and payment for PT and other health care services.
1.4 Perform duties consistent with the Guide for Conduct of the PTA and Standards of Ethical Conduct (APTA) to meet the expectations of patients, members of the PT profession, and other providers as necessary.
1.5 Perform duties in a manner consistent with APTA's Values Based behavior for the PTA
1.6 Respond to an ethical situation in a way that demonstrates sound moral reasoning congruent with core professional ethics and values
1.7 Communicate effectively with all stakeholders (including p/c, family members, caregivers, practitioners, interprofessional team members, consumers, payers and policymakers)
1.8 Identify, respect and act with consideration for patient/ client differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs in all work related activities.
1.9 Apply current knowledge, theory and clinical judgment (while considering the p/c perspective and the environment, based on the POC established by the PT.)
1.10 Identify basic concepts in professional literature including, but not limited to, validity, reliability and level of statistical significance.
1.11 Identify and integrate EBP resources to support clinical decision making (for progression of the patient within the POC established by the PT)
1.12 Effectively educate others using teaching methods that are commensurate with the needs of the patient, caregiver, or healthcare personnel.
1.13 Participate in professional and community organizations that provide opportunities for volunteerism, advocacy and leadership.
1.14 Identify career development and life long learning opportunities including the role of the PTA in clinical education.

2.0 Provide for patient/ client management using appropriate framework

2.1 Interview patients/ clients, caregivers, and family to obtain current information (related to prior and current level of function and general health status)—e.g. fatigue, fever, malaise, unexplained weight change)
2.2 Use the ICF to describe a patients impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions.

3.0 Demonstrate ability to interpret a plan of care, monitor patient response and respond appropriately.

3.1 Communicate an understanding of the PT Plan of Care as relates to goals and intended outcomes.
3.2 Review health records prior to carrying out the PT POC (lab values, diagnostic tests, specialty reports, narrative, consults, and PT documentation)
3.3 Prepare work environment
3.4 Provide interventions based on the plan of care developed by the physical therapist.
3.5 Monitor and adjust interventions in the plan of care in response to patient/ client clinical indications
3.6 Report changes in patient/ client status or progress to supervising PT
3.7 Determine when an intervention should not be performed due to clinical indications or scope of the PTA.
3.8 Contribute to discontinuation of the episode of care planning and follow up processes as directed by the PT.
3.9 Use logical and critical thinking in the provision of physical therapy care

4.0 Provide physical therapy interventions identified in the plan of care developed by the PT

4.1 Demonstrate airway clearance techniques: Breathing exercises, coughing techniques, and secretion mobilization.
4.2 Apply and monitor use of devices and equipment: assistive/ adaptive devices prosthetic and orthotic devices
4.3 Apply biophysical agents for patient care: (biofeedback, compressions therapies, cryotherapy, hydrotherapy, superficial and deep thermal agents, traction, light therapies)
4.4 Provide functional training in Self- Care in multiple environments and in Domestic, Education, Work, Community, Social and Civic Life
4.5 Apply manual therapy techniques
PROM
Therapeutic massage
4.6 Provide motor function training (balance, gait, etc.)
4.7 Provide patient/ client education
4.8 Provide therapeutic exercise
4.9 Provide for wound management: Isolation techniques Sterile technique Application and removal of dressings or agents, and identification of precautions for dressing removal.
4.10 Respond effectively to p/c and environmental emergencies that commonly occur in the clinical setting

5.0 Perform physical therapy tests and measures

5.1 Collect data about aerobic capacity and endurance: Measure standard vital signs Recognize and monitor responses to positional changes and activities
5.2 Measure anthropometrical characteristics Measurement of height, weight, length and girth
5.3 Assess mental function Detect changes in patient's state of arousal, mentation and cognition
5.4 Assess use of assistive technology (identify the individual's and caregiver's ability to care for the device; recognize changes in skin conditions and safety factors while using devices and equipment)
5.5 Assess gait, locomotion and balance: (determine the safety, status and progression of patients while engaged in gait, locomotion, balance and wheelchair management and mobility)
5.6 Assess integumentary integrity: (detect absent or altered sensation; normal or abnormal integumentary changes; activities, positioning, and postures that aggravate or relieve pain or altered sensation, or that can produce associated skin trauma; and recognize viable versus non-viable tissue)
5.7 Assess joint integrity and mobility (detect normal and abnormal joint movement)
5.8 Assess muscle performance: (measure muscle strength by MMT; observe the presence or absence of muscle mass; recognize normal and abnormal muscle length, and changes in muscle tone)
5.9 Assess muscle tone and/or activity through palpation
5.10 Assess neuromotor development: (detect gross motor milestones, fine motor milestones and righting and equilibrium reactions)
5.11 Assess pain: (administer standardized questionnaires, graphs, behavioral scales, or visual analog scales for pain; recognize activities, positioning, and postures that aggravate or relieve pain or altered sensations)
5.12 Assess posture: (determine normal and abnormal alignment of trunk and extremities at rest and during activities)
5.13 Assess range of motion: (measure functional ROM and measure ROM using an appropriate measurement device)
5.14 Assess function related to Self-care in multiple environments and Civic, Community, Domestic, Education, Social and Work Life: (Inspect the physical environment and measure physical spaces; recognize safety and barriers in the home, community and work environments; recognize level of functional status; administer standardized questionnaires to patients and others)
5.15 Assess ventilation, respiration and circulation: (detect signs and symptoms or respiratory distress, and activities that aggravate or relieve edema, pain, dyspnea, or other symptoms; describe thoracoabdominal movements and breathing patterns with activity, and cough and sputum characteristics)

6.0 Participate in the Health Care Environment

6.1 Contribute to efforts to increase patient and health care provider safety.
6.2 Participate in the provision of patient-centered interprofessional collaborative care.
6.3 Participate in performance improvement activities. (quality assurance)

7.0 Participate in Practice Management

7.1 Describe aspects of organizational planning and operation of PT service.
7.2 Describe accurate and timely information for billing and payment purposes.
7.13 Complete accurate documentation (that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting, and other regulatory agencies)