

Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA)

This classification specification identifies representative responsibilities and duties, and is intended to assist in the determination of the appropriate classification level within each discipline. Some duties and responsibilities may overlap between class levels. The classification specification is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all duties performed.

Classification Title: **Physiotherapist I**

Date Updated: **August 21, 2014**

Job Summary:

The Physiotherapist (PT) I is the working level, and sometimes referred to as Staff Therapist, responsible for performing physiotherapeutic rehabilitation services using a client/family-centered model of practice. Through primary activities of assessment, intervention, treatment, consultation, education, and follow-up, the PT I enables the client to perform physical functions that are useful and meaningful to the client/family.

Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:

Core Duties

- Reviews clinical referrals, accepts, screens, and assesses client needs from a physiotherapy perspective in cooperation with other health disciplines as appropriate (often part of a multidisciplinary team).
- Develops, plans, implements and provides follow-up of physiotherapy services for clients in cooperation with other disciplines in the hospital and community.
- Establishes and maintains effective communication with colleagues, medical staff, and health care practitioners, concerning documentation, client treatment plans, progress and discharge.
- Participates in client/family/caregiver education in conjunction with other disciplines as required.
- Produces and maintains information, documentation and verbal reports to support delivery of physiotherapy services, including client charting.
- Operates a variety of monitoring, recording, diagnostic, therapeutic, and associated equipment.

Other Related Duties

- Identifies need for replacement, maintenance or repairs of supplies and equipment.
- Participates in the authorization of Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) equipment and supplies and actively maintains current knowledge of AADL program benefits as appropriate.
- May participate in clinical research, publications and presentations, interdisciplinary projects, and quality improvement initiatives as required.

Leadership

- Assists with orientation and mentorship of new staff as required.
- Serves as a preceptor for Physiotherapy and other healthcare students.
- Provides collegial/functional guidance to other health care providers.
- Provides clinical direction to Therapy Assistants and support personnel.

Decision-Making

- Makes day-to-day clinical decisions regarding assessment, intervention, discharge and follow- up of clients.
- Takes initial action in response to unusual or complex cases, situations or concerns and attempts to resolve them, refers concerns to a PT II or III, and/or appropriate individual(s) as needed.
- Makes decisions on student activities, workload, and caseload priorities either independently or in collaboration with other therapists/medical staff.

Knowledge:

Education

- Masters Degree (or equivalent combination of education and experience) in Physiotherapy from an accredited university program.

Additional Qualifications/Designations/Certification

- Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) Authorizer status required for some services.

Registration Requirements

- Registered with the Physiotherapy Alberta - College + Association.

Working Conditions:

Physical Demands

- Considerable time is spent standing, walking and in close supportive contact with clients.
- Required to bend, pull, lift, perform variable movements and position changes (may be required to assume awkward positions).
- Must be able to transfer and/or assist with lifting adults/children.
- In a community setting, some physical demands with transporting equipment.

Work Environment

- Primarily clean, air controlled indoor environments.
- Community, work, home or school visits will have variable conditions including travel in all road/weather conditions.
- Work in home care environments may involve exposure to bodily fluids, chemicals and potential allergens.
- May work alone in client's home environment, posing personal safety challenges/risks.
- May be subject to verbally and/or physically aggressive clients and family