

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

This classification specification identifies representative duties and responsibilities, 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: **Therapy Assistant**

Date Updated: **March 2, 2021**

### **Job Summary:**

The Therapy Assistant is responsible for assisting in the delivery of therapeutic rehabilitation in Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Language Pathology and/or Therapeutic Recreation under the supervision of a regulated rehabilitation therapist or recreation therapist.

### **Key Responsibilities and Typical Duties:**

#### **Core Duties**

- Screens clients and administers specific components of standardized assessment tools as assigned by the therapist.
- Assists in developing, scheduling, preparing, implementing and evaluating individual client and group programs.
- Facilitates individual and group rehabilitation activities outlined in the client's care plan.
- Provides input into client goals and interventions and contributes to the development and modification of the client's care plan.
- Adapts treatment activities based on potential risks, client limitations, changes in status, and adverse reactions and reports these changes/actions to the supervising therapist.
- Applies knowledge of disease and normal health and development to understand and report on individual clients.
- Operates, maintains, tracks and orders equipment.

#### **Other Related Duties**

- Monitors and documents client progress, and reports outcomes to supervising therapist.
- Monitors the operation of equipment and reports malfunctioning equipment.
- May participate in quality improvement initiatives as required.

#### **Leadership**

- Coaches and orients staff and Therapy Assistant students.
- Provides collegial guidance and mentoring to staff.

### **Decision-Making**

- Makes decisions on modifications to client rehabilitation plans based on client's behaviour and symptoms.
- Observes and understands the causes of behaviour and modifies approach to enhance successful interactions and outcomes.
- Determines appropriate facilitation techniques according to the care plan.

### **Knowledge:**

#### **Education**

- Diploma from an approved post-secondary Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant program.

### **Working Conditions:**

#### **Physical Demands**

- Considerable time is spent standing, walking, sitting 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 clients.

#### **Work Environment**

- Primarily clean, air controlled indoor environments.
- Travel in all-weather/road conditions.
- May be subject to exposure to verbally/physically aggressive clients and/or family members.