

PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR THE PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

ISSUE	Hearing	Mobility	Motor Skills (Fine & Gross)	Tactile	Visual
STANDARD	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	Mobility sufficient to support and move patients.	<p>Fine and gross motor skills sufficient to manipulate several items at once using both hands, keep uniform pressure on patient and adjust based on patient response, maintain uniform distance between equipment and patient.</p> <p>Perform multiple motor tasks simultaneously; provide effective physical therapy care.</p>	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	<p>Ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in physical therapy setting.</p> <p>Ability to distinguish shades of color; have peripheral, form, and depth perception.</p>
EXAMPLES	<p>Auscultation of breath sounds and blood pressure.</p> <p>Converse with patients and health care professionals.</p> <p>Ability to follow verbal instructions.</p> <p>Respond to equipment safety alarms.</p>	<p>Support and stabilize patients safely; turn and move patients; reach equipment or parts of patient's body; move in and out of treatment areas.</p> <p>Manipulate large and small components of equipment as needed.</p>	<p>Operate equipment; steadily manipulate objects or assisting/positioning patients.</p> <p>Make coordinated finger and hand movements to grasp, move, place or assemble objects.</p>	<p>Assess patient response to therapeutic media; feel pulse, skin temperature; bilateral tactile differences; palpate and discriminate soft versus bony tissue.</p> <p>Distinguish textures, degree of firmness, temperature differences.</p>	<p>Read fine print and calibrations.</p> <p>Observe and assess patient's response to treatment.</p> <p>Reading and writing reports.</p> <p>Observe/discriminate changes in patient's skin color.</p> <p>Discriminate details at close range.</p> <p>Observe and discriminate color Coded equipment and digital readout monitors; discriminate vertical and horizontal differences in depth perception.</p>