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COURSE NO., HOURS, AND TITLE: PTH 321A & PTH 321B Clinical Internship

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The successful student will be able to apply previously learned theories and treatment interventions of patient care through closely supervised practicum experience in two separate physical therapy facilities. (a) First six week internship. (b) Second six week internship. Must be taken in a, b sequence. Prerequisite: minimum grade of C in all PTH courses, concurrent registration in PTH 322.

PREREQUISITE TO: None

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

Adhere to federal and state legal practice standards and institutional regulations related to patient/client care and fiscal management.

Act in a manner consistent with the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant and the Guide of Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant

Change behavior in response to understanding the consequences (positive and negative) of the physical therapist assistant’s actions.

Place patient’s/client’s needs above the physical therapist assistant’s needs.

Participate in learning and development activities to ensure continued competence.

Participate in and responds to self-assessment activities.

Participate in clinical education.

Expressively and receptively communicates in a culturally competent manner with physical therapists, patients/clients, family members, caregivers, and other health care providers, students, interdisciplinary team members, administrators, payers, and consumers.

Exhibit caring, compassion, and empathy in providing services to patients/clients.

Promote active involvement of the patient/client in his/her care.

Identify, respect, and act with consideration for the patient’s/client’s differences, values, preferences, and expressed needs in all physical therapy activities.
Demonstrate behaviors, conduct, actions, attitudes, and values consistent with the roles, responsibilities, and tasks of the physical therapist assistant.

Support and participate in organizations and efforts that promote physical therapy.

Effectively educate others using teaching methods commensurate with the needs of the learners.

Educate others about the role of the physical therapist assistant.

Demonstrate integrity in all interactions with patients/clients, family members, caregivers, supervising physical therapists, co-workers, other health care providers, students, other consumers, employers, and payers.

Review the plan of care established by the physical therapist prior to initiating patient/client intervention.

Provide safe interventions as directed in the plan of care and supervised by the physical therapist.

Provide effective instruction to the patient/client and others to achieve the goals and outcomes as described in the plan of care.

Complete documentation that follows professional guidelines, health care system, and physical therapy setting policies.

Progress the patient/client interventions through the plan of care.

Collect data to quantify the patient’s/client’s response to interventions as directed and supervised by the physical therapist.

Respond effectively to patient/client and environmental emergencies in the work setting.

Utilize human and material institution based resources and services to provide high-quality, efficient, and cost effective physical therapy services.

Complies with facility procedures and payer regulations consistent with health care delivery system and the practice setting.

Values and supports the physical therapy profession in society.

Demonstrates citizenship.

**Student Outcomes:**

Communicates verbally and non-verbally with the patient, the physical therapist, health care delivery personnel and others in an effective, appropriate, and capable manner.

Recognizes individual and cultural differences and responds appropriately in all aspects of physical therapy services.

Exhibits conduct that reflects a commitment to meet the expectations of members of society receiving health care services.
Exhibits conduct that reflects a commitment to meet the expectations of members of the profession of physical therapy.

Exhibits conduct that reflects practice standards that are legal, ethical and safe.

Communicates an understanding of the plan of care developed by the physical therapist to achieve short and long term goals and intended outcomes.

Demonstrates competence in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the physical therapist.

Interventions include:

Functional Training

- activities of daily living
- assistive/adaptive devices
- body mechanics
- developmental activities
- gait and locomotion training
- prosthetics and orthotics
- wheelchair management skills

Infection Control Procedures

- isolation techniques
- sterile techniques

Manual Therapy Techniques

- passive range of motion
- therapeutic massage

Physical Agents and Mechanical Agents

- thermal agents
- biofeedback
- compression therapies
- cryotherapy
- electrotherapeutic agents
- hydrotherapy
- superficial and deep thermal agents
- traction

Therapeutic Exercise

- aerobic conditioning
- balance and coordination
- breathing exercises and coughing techniques
- conditioning and reconditioning
- posture awareness training
- range of motion exercises
- stretching exercises
- strengthening exercises

Wound Management

- application and removal of dressing or agents
- identification of precautions for dressing removal

Demonstrates competency in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care.

Aerobic Capacity and Endurance

- measures standard vital signs
- recognizes and monitors responses to positional changes and activities
- observes and monitors thoracoabdominal movements and breathing patterns with activity

Anthropometrical Characteristics

- measures height, weight, length and girth

Arousal, Mentation and Cognition

- recognizes changes in the direction and magnitude of patient’s state of arousal, mentation and cognition

Assistive, Adaptive, Orthotic, Protective, Supportive and Prosthetic Devices

- identifies the individual’s and caregiver’s ability to care for the device
- recognizes changes in skin condition while using devices and equipment
- recognizes safety factors while using the device

Gait, Locomotion and Balance

- describes the safety, status and progression of patients while engaged in gait, locomotion, balance, wheelchair management and mobility

Integumentary Integrity

- recognizes absent or altered sensation
- recognizes normal and abnormal integumentary changes
- recognizes activities, positioning and posture that aggravate or relieve pain or altered sensations, or that can produce associated skin trauma
- recognizes viable versus nonviable tissue

Joint Integrity and Mobility

- recognizes normal and abnormal joint movement

Muscle Performance
measures muscle strength by manual muscle testing
- observes the presence or absence of muscle mass
- recognizes normal and abnormal muscle length
- recognizes changes in muscle tone

Neuromotor Development
- recognizes gross motor milestones
- recognizes fine motor milestones
- recognizes righting and equilibrium reactions

Pain
- administers standardized questionnaires, graphs, behavioral scales, or visual analog scales for pain
- recognizes activities, positioning and postures that aggravate or relieve pain or altered sensations

Posture
- describes resting posture in any position
- recognizes alignment of trunk and extremities at rest and during activities

Range of Motion
- measures functional range of motion
- measures range of motion using a goniometer

Self-Care/Home Management/Community or Work Reintegration
- inspects the physical environment and measure physical space
- recognizes safety and barriers in home, community and work environments
- recognizes level of functional status
- administers standardized questionnaires to patients and others

Ventilation, Respiration and Circulation Examination
- recognizes cyanosis
- recognizes activities that aggravate or relieve edema, pain, dyspnea, or other symptoms
- describes chest wall expansion
- describes cough and sputum characteristics

Adjusts interventions within the plan of care established by the physical therapist in response to patient clinical indications and reports this to the supervising physical therapist.

Recognizes when intervention should not be provided due to changes in the patient’s status and reports this to the supervising physical therapist.

Reports any changes in the patient’s status to the supervising physical therapist.

Recognizes when the direction to perform an intervention is beyond that which is appropriate for a physical therapist assistant and initiates clarification with the physical therapist.
Participates in educating patients and caregivers as directed by the supervising physical therapist.

Provides patient-related instruction to patients, family members and caregivers to achieve patient outcomes based on the plan of care established by the physical therapist.

Takes appropriate action in an emergency situation.

Completes thorough, accurate, logical, concise, timely, and legible documentation that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting and other regulatory agencies.

Participates in discharge planning and follow-up as directed by the supervising physical therapist.

Reads and understands health care literature.

**Education**

- under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist, instructs other members of the health care team
- educates others about the role of the physical therapist assistant

**Administration**

- interacts with other members of the health care team in patient-care and non patient-care activities
- provides accurate and timely information for billing and reimbursement purposes
- describes aspects of organizational planning and operation of the physical therapy service
- participates in performance improvement activities (quality assurance)

**Social Responsibility**

- demonstrates a commitment to meeting the needs of patients and consumers
- demonstrates an awareness of social responsibility, citizenship and advocacy, including participation in community and service organizations

**Career Development**

- identifies career development and lifelong learning opportunities
- recognizes the role of the physical therapist assistant in the clinical education of physical therapist assistant students
TEXTBOOKS:

Required:

Texts from all previous PTH courses.

NOTE: Program faculty, central administration and/or advisory committee members may review written evaluations and research work before final grade is received.