



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center PHYSICAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUPERVISION OF REHABILITATION THERAPY TECHNICIANS ASSIGNED TO PHYSICAL THERAPY

Policy No.: 123
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Supersedes: January 2018
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PURPOSE: To clarify application of the California Physical Therapy (CPT) Practice Act and Regulations (see citations below).

POLICY:

A Rehabilitation Therapy Technician (RTT) assigned to the Physical Therapy Department will be supervised by a physical therapist according to the following procedures:

1. A physical therapist will supervise only one RTT at any one time while the RTT is performing patient-related tasks as defined by the CPT Practice Act (refer to Departmental Policy and Procedure No. 103.4). "Patient-related task" means a physical therapy service rendered directly to the patient by an RTT/aide, excluding non-patient-related tasks. The RTT shall at all times be under the orders, direction, and immediate supervision of the physical therapist. "Non-patient-related task" means a task related to observation of the patient, transport of the patient, physical support only during gait or transfer training, housekeeping duties, clerical duties, and similar functions. Transporting a patient, providing transfers or ambulation without training do not constitute patient-related tasks.
2. The physical therapist shall evaluate each patient prior to the performance of patient-related tasks by the RTT and record in the patient's record a treatment program based on the evaluation and other information relevant to the physical therapy program. A physical therapist will determine appropriate portions of the patient's physical therapy program to assign to the RTT. Only tasks which can be safely and effectively performed by the RTT will be assigned.
3. The physical therapist will provide continuous and immediate supervision of the RTT who is performing patient-related tasks, and shall be in direct line of sight to the RTT performing patient related tasks. The physical therapist shall be readily available at all times to provide advice, instruction or intervention in the care of the patient.
4. If the supervising physical therapist is off grounds at any time, another physical therapist will supervise the RTT as described in # 1, #3 and # 4.

5. When the RTT provides treatment to a patient, the physical therapist must provide direct service to that patient during that treatment day. The service provided can be treatment, evaluation, or monitoring of the patient's progress.

Note: Authority cited California Physical Therapy Practice Act: California Business and Professional Code: Chapter 5.7 Physical Therapy: Article 3. Licensing of Practitioners Section 2630. License Required- Exceptions and California Code of Regulations Title 16 Division 13.2 Physical Therapy Regulations; Article 6, Physical Therapy Aides; Section 1399. Requirements for the Use of Aides.

*Examples of appropriate documentation include:

1. "The patient's progress was monitored daily by the physical therapist."
2. "The patient was seen daily by the P.T. The patient is continuing to make appropriate progress." "The program was modified and communicated to the RTT."
3. "The patient and program were reassessed daily and changes made, as noted."



Director, Physical Therapy Department

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