
Online Resource 1. Distinct occupational tasks performed by musculoskeletal allied health professionals

Chiropractors

- Evaluate the functioning of the neuromusculoskeletal system and the spine using systems of chiropractic diagnosis.
 - Diagnose health problems by reviewing patients' health and medical histories, questioning, observing, and examining patients and interpreting x-rays.
 - Perform a series of manual adjustments to the spine or other articulations of the body to correct the musculoskeletal system.
 - Obtain and record patients' medical histories.
 - Maintain accurate case histories of patients.
 - Advise patients about recommended courses of treatment.
 - Analyse x-rays to locate the sources of patients' difficulties and to rule out fractures or diseases as sources of problems.
 - Counsel patients about nutrition, exercise, sleeping habits, stress management, or other matters.
 - Consult with or refer patients to appropriate health practitioners when necessary.
 - Recommend and arrange for diagnostic procedures, such as blood chemistry tests, saliva tests, x-rays, or other imaging procedures.
 - Suggest and apply the use of supports such as straps, tapes, bandages, or braces if necessary.
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Occupational therapists

- Test and evaluate patients' physical and mental abilities and analyse medical data to determine realistic rehabilitation goals for patients.
 - Complete and maintain necessary records.
 - Plan, organize, and conduct occupational therapy programs in hospital, institutional, or community settings to help rehabilitate those impaired because of illness, injury or psychological or developmental problems.
 - Plan and implement programs and social activities to help patients learn work or school skills and adjust to handicaps.
 - Select activities that will help individuals learn work and life-management skills within limits of their mental or physical capabilities.
 - Evaluate patients' progress and prepare reports that detail progress.
 - Train caregivers in providing for the needs of a patient during and after therapy.
 - Lay out materials such as puzzles, scissors and eating utensils for use in therapy, and clean and repair these tools after therapy sessions.
 - Consult with rehabilitation team to select activity programs or coordinate occupational therapy with other therapeutic activities.
 - Design and create, or requisition, special supplies and equipment, such as splints, braces, and computer-aided adaptive equipment.
 - Recommend changes in patients' work or living environments, consistent with their needs and capabilities.
 - Develop and participate in health promotion programs, group activities, or discussions to promote client health, facilitate social adjustment, alleviate stress, and prevent physical or mental disability.
 - Provide training and supervision in therapy techniques and objectives for students or nurses and other medical staff.
 - Help clients improve decision making, abstract reasoning, memory, sequencing, coordination, and perceptual skills, using computer programs.
 - Conduct research in occupational therapy.
 - Advise on health risks in the workplace or on health-related transition to retirement.
 - Provide patients with assistance in locating or holding jobs.
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Physical therapists

- Plan, prepare, or carry out individually designed programs of physical treatment to maintain, improve, or restore physical functioning, alleviate pain, or prevent physical dysfunction in patients.
 - Perform and document an initial exam, evaluating data to identify problems and determine a diagnosis prior to intervention.
 - Record prognosis, treatment, response, and progress in patient's chart or enter information into computer.
 - Instruct patient and family in treatment procedures to be continued at home.
 - Evaluate effects of treatment at various stages and adjust treatments to achieve maximum benefit.
 - Confer with the patient, medical practitioners, or appropriate others to plan, implement, or assess the intervention program.
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- Administer manual exercises, massage, or traction to help relieve pain, increase patient strength, or decrease or prevent deformity or crippling.
- Obtain patients' informed consent to proposed interventions.
- Test and measure patient's strength, motor development and function, sensory perception, functional capacity, or respiratory or circulatory efficiency and record data.
- Direct, supervise, assess, and communicate with supportive personnel.
- Review physician's referral and patient's medical records to help determine diagnosis and physical therapy treatment required.
- Identify and document goals, anticipated progress, and plans for re-evaluation.
- Provide information to the patient about the proposed intervention, its material risks and expected benefits, and any reasonable alternatives.
- Provide educational information about physical therapy or physical therapists, injury prevention, ergonomics, or ways to promote health.
- Inform patients and refer to appropriate practitioners when diagnosis reveals findings outside physical therapy.
- Discharge patient from physical therapy when goals or projected outcomes have been attained and provide for appropriate follow-up care or referrals.
- Administer treatment involving application of physical agents, using equipment, moist packs, ultraviolet or infrared lamps, or ultrasound machines.
- Refer clients to community resources or services.
- Construct, maintain, or repair medical supportive devices.
- Evaluate, fit, or adjust prosthetic or orthotic devices or recommend modification to orthotist.
- Teach physical therapy students or those in other health professions.
- Conduct or support research and apply research findings to practice.
- Participate in community or community agency activities or help to formulate public policy.
- Direct group rehabilitation activities.

Podiatrists

- Treat bone, muscle, and joint disorders affecting the feet and ankles.
 - Diagnose diseases and deformities of the foot using medical histories, physical examinations, x-rays, and laboratory test results.
 - Advise patients about treatments and foot care techniques necessary for prevention of future problems.
 - Prescribe medications, corrective devices, physical therapy, or surgery.
 - Surgically treat conditions such as corns, calluses, ingrown nails, tumours, shortened tendons, bunions, cysts, or abscesses.
 - Refer patients to physicians when symptoms indicative of systemic disorders, such as arthritis or diabetes, are observed in feet and legs.
 - Make and fit prosthetic appliances.
 - Correct deformities by means of plaster casts and strapping.
 - Perform administrative duties, such as hiring employees, ordering supplies, or keeping records.
 - Educate the public about the benefits of foot care through techniques such as speaking engagements, advertising, and other forums.
 - Treat deformities using mechanical methods, such as whirlpool or paraffin baths, and electrical methods, such as short wave and low voltage currents.
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Data adapted from National Center for O*NET Development (2023).