

THE ROLE OF AIDES IN A PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICE HOD P06-19-12-07 [Amended: HOD P06-18-32-37; HOD P06-00-17-28; Initial: HOD 06-99-10-12] [Previously Titled: Provision of Physical Therapy Interventions and Related Tasks]
[Position]

Physical therapy aides are any support personnel who perform designated tasks related to the operation of the physical therapy service. Tasks are activities that do not require the clinical decision making of the physical therapist or the clinical problem solving of the physical therapist assistant. Tasks related to patient and client services must be assigned to the physical therapy aide by the physical therapist, or where allowable by law the physical therapist assistant, and may be performed by the aide only under direct personal supervision. Direct personal supervision requires that the physical therapist, or where allowable by law the physical therapist assistant, be physically present and immediately available to supervise tasks that are related to patient and client services. The physical therapist maintains responsibility for patient and client management at all times, including for tasks performed by a physical therapy aide.

Given this role of the physical therapy aide, the American Physical Therapy Association opposes certification or credentialing of physical therapy aides.

Explanation of Reference Numbers:

HOD P00-00-00-00 stands for House of Delegates/month/year/page/vote in the House of Delegates minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, HOD P06-17-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2017 House of Delegates minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.

P: Position | S: Standard | G: Guideline | Y: Policy | R: Procedure