

STANDARD COURSE OUTLINE

PHTA 2222 COMMUNICATION AND DOCUMENTATION

PREREQUISITE Admission into the Physical Therapist Assistant Program (*PTA*)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will address issues related to documentation and communication in physical therapy and instruction in commonly used types of physical therapy documentation, styles of communication, and self assessment of professional behavior based on the 10 generic abilities.

CREDIT HOURS: 2 credit hours / non-transferable

TARGET AUDIENCE Students admitted to the PTA Program

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Required:

1. Lukan, M. (1997). Documentation for Physical Therapist Assistants. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Recognize the impact of verbal and non-verbal communication and ability to assess if the patient and/or caregiver, Physical Therapist, and other health care professionals understood instructions and/or communication presented.
2. Discuss the impact of individual and cultural differences on verbal and non-verbal communication and treatment approach with patients, caregivers, Physical Therapist and/or other health care professionals.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the practice act, legal standards and ethics by demonstrating knowledge of the following: guidelines for documentation, phone referrals, informed consent, defining rule of confidentiality, assessing appropriate actions to take if a patient refuses treatment or has a change in functional or cognitive status, differentiating between the legal role of the Physical Therapist and the Physical Therapy Assistant in the initial evaluation, interim notes and discharge summaries, correlating documentation guidelines to the practice act, documenting information in the appropriate section of a SOAP note, listing principles for

documenting in a legal record and identifying if legal guidelines were followed, writing notes and discharge summaries that comply with legal guidelines, and identifying the medical record as a legal document.

4. Demonstrate understanding the plan of care developed by the Physical Therapist to achieve short and long term goals by: correlating Physical Therapy goals to the treatment sessions, progressing the treatment outlined in the plan of care within the legal guidelines, performing discharge planning, documenting treatment sessions, comparing a patient's functional ability in a PTA progress note to the initial evaluation and Physical Therapy goals to demonstrate treatment effectiveness, utilizing assessment component of a SOAP note to describe progress or lack of progress toward goals and support information utilizing the subjective and objective data.
5. Utilize visual analog scales or graphs for pain and document information in correct section of a SOAP note, demonstrate knowledge and use of utilizing these questionnaires in Gait Analysis and Training Lab Practicals
6. Demonstrate awareness of a variety of documentation tools to include: SOAP notes, PSP, PSPG PEP, FOR and IEP.
7. Demonstrate ability to document patient information accurately, logically, concisely, legibly and in a timely manner following guidelines required by the state practice act and other regulatory functions.
8. Identify factors affecting discharge, explain criteria used to determine discharge planning patient needs, and the PTA's role in discharge planning to include communication with the Physical Therapist.
9. Recognize and utilize common medical abbreviations.
10. Demonstrate basic knowledge regarding quality improvement/assurance
11. Given a mock patient scenario and incident report form, demonstrate the ability to accurately complete an incident report.
12. Understand criteria for goal writing for professional goals.