

WHAT IS A THERAPY AIDE?

Therapy aides assist professional staff by visiting clients, preparing written and verbal reports and helping with personal care that clients or carers may not be able to attend to.

ROLES OF A THERAPY AIDE

Community Health Nursing Aide

- Provides care for the sick, aged or disabled in the home. This may include personal and hygiene care such as showering, bathing and dressing.
- Cares for incontinent people with prolonged periods of bed rest.
- Makes sure the client has a healthy diet.

Occupational Therapy Aide

- Assists in the provision of client services in the home, clinic, hospital or day centre.
- Constructs, adjusts and fits aids (and equipment) including splints.
- Under direction of an occupational therapist, assists clients in self care, skills of daily living, diversional and other rehabilitation activities with the aim of improving safety and independence of the client in these tasks.
- Reports any unusual circumstances, independent action taken, or additional services and action.

Physiotherapy Aide

- Assists clients with exercise or rehabilitation programs.
- Delivers self-care and rehabilitation equipment to the patient at home or in a hospital or clinic.
- Adjusts equipment to suit the client's needs.
- Demonstrates the use of equipment.
- Lifts, transfers and generally assists in moving patients within their homes, or to hospitals or places of treatment.

Speech Pathology Aide

- Assists in the provision of therapy to clients once a speech pathologist has assessed and devised a suitable program.
- Assists and trains clients in the use of alternative electronic and non-electronic communication systems.
- Helps to make or prepare equipment to use with clients.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Therapy aides work in hospitals and hospices, physiotherapy and occupational therapy practices and private homes. They also work in community centres, nursing homes, day centres, clinics and private practices.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

Work as a therapy aide is available without formal qualifications. Informal training on the job will be provided. However, entry to this occupation may be improved with qualifications. Entry to certificate courses in Health Service Assistance usually requires Year 10.

THERAPY AIDE

SUPERVISION PROVIDED

A comprehensive orientation program is provided for all new staff members with ongoing support.

PERSONAL SKILLS REQUIRED OF A THERAPY AIDE

- Maturity
- Able to relate well to frail, sick or disabled people of all ages
- Caring, understanding, patient and calm
- Sense of humour.

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