

Physical Therapist Aide

■ Job Description

The physical therapist aide performs tasks assigned by the therapist. The aide maintains and transports equipment and supplies, and prepares and cleans treatment areas. The aide may also perform general office duties.

■ Job Settings

Hospitals, rehabilitation centers, schools for handicapped children, clinics, physicians' offices, nursing homes, physical therapy centers

■ Projected Need

In Illinois, the number of jobs for physical therapist aides is expected to grow much faster than average through 2010. The need for trained personnel to perform routine clerical tasks within the physical therapy environment will continue to increase as the demand for services rises.

In Illinois, there were about 1,270 people employed in this very small occupation in 2000.

■ Salaries

Physical therapist aides working in Illinois earn a median wage of \$10.72 per hour. Salaries range from \$8.20 per hour for entry-level aides to \$12.26 per hour for experienced workers.

■ Related Careers

Physical therapist assistant, occupational therapy aide, chiropractic assistant, and medical assistant

■ Differences in Training

Employers typically require physical therapist aides to have a high school diploma, strong interpersonal skills, and a desire to assist people in need. Most employers provide clinical on-the-job training.

■ Credentials

There is at present no registration procedure for physical therapist aides.