

Bay State College Physical Therapist Assistant Program Skills Competency and Critical Safety Elements List

Assessing student ability to perform patient care and related activities safely and competently is of prime importance to both the academic and clinical faculty of the PTA program. The following is a list of the skills in which students must demonstrate safety and competency as they progress through the curriculum. The performance levels expected of students **prior** to Clinical Education courses are indicated in the columns to the right. Performance elements marked with an asterisk (*) are considered critical aspects of safety.

B = Beginning competency, D = Developing competency, E = Entry level competency

Safety Elements	Performance Level Starting Clinical Education I	Performance Level Starting Clinical Education II & III	Graduate Performance Level
*Observes proper infection control techniques	D	E	E
*Utilizes sterile technique	B	D	E
*Recognizes signs/ symptoms of infection.	B	D	E
*Maintains a safe working environment for patient, self, and others.	D	E	E
*Utilizes effective body mechanics.	D	E	E
*Identifies and observes precautions and contraindications.	B	D	E
*Takes appropriate action in an emergency situation.	D	E	E
*Appropriately responds to changes in patient status.	D	E	E
*Identifies, avoids use of, and reports broken or malfunctioning equipment.	D	E	E
*Recognizes when personal physical abilities, knowledge and/or skill base is not sufficient for the activity required and seeks assistance.	D	E	E
*Identifies issues which require immediate follow up with supervising PT.	B	D	E

Professional Core Values	Performance Level Starting Clinical Education 1	Performance Level Starting Clinical Education II & III	Graduate Performance Level
Communicates verbally and non-verbally with the patient, the physical therapist, health care delivery personnel and others in an effective, appropriate, and capable manner.	B	D	E
Demonstrates effective time management.	B	D	E
Refer to PTA Program Professional Core Values Assessment form for additional professional behaviors			

Related Skills	Performance Level Starting Clinical Education 1	Performance Level Starting Clinical Education II & III	Graduate Performance Level
*Reads and correctly interprets information in medical record.	B	D	E
Appropriately informs patient regarding intervention.	B	D	E
*Appropriately monitors patient status.	B	D	E
Appropriately assesses and responds to patient reports of pain.	B	D	E
*Identifies and provides correct and effective level of assistance for patient.	D	E	E
*Uses appropriate hand placement and force in manual contacts.	B	D	E
Adjusts interventions within the plan of care established by the physical therapist in response to patient clinical indications and reports this to the supervising physical therapist.	B	D	E
Provides and monitors effectiveness of patient-related instruction to patients, family members, and caregivers to achieve patient outcomes based on the plan of care established by the physical therapist.	B	D	E
Provides instruction regarding prevention, and promotion of health and wellness.	B	D	E
Produces documentation which is accurate, concise, timely, and legible.	D	D	E

Data Collection and Intervention			
Demonstrates competence in data collection and implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the physical therapist in a safe and efficient manner:	Performance Level Starting Clinical Education 1	Performance Level Starting Clinical Education II & III	Graduate Performance Level
• Functional Training including:	B	D	E
○ assistive devices	B	D	E
○ bed mobility and transfers	D	E	E
○ gait	B	D	E
○ wheel chair use/management	B	D	E
○ prosthetics/orthotics	B	D	E
○ developmental activities	B	D	E
• Manual Therapy Techniques including:	B	D	E
○ passive range of motion	D	E	E
○ massage	B	D	E
• Physical Agents and Mechanical Agents including:			
○ thermal agents	D	D	E
○ biofeedback	D	D	E
○ compression therapies	D	D	E
○ cryotherapy	D	D	E
○ electrotherapeutic agents	D	D	E
○ hydrotherapy	D	D	E
○ superficial and deep thermal agents, traction	D	D	E
• Therapeutic Activities including:			
○ endurance	B	D	E
○ balance	B	D	E
○ coordination	B	D	E

Demonstrates competence in data collection and implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the physical therapist in a safe and efficient manner:	Performance Level Starting Clinical Education 1	Performance Level Starting Clinical Education II & III	Graduate Performance Level
○ cardiopulmonary exercises and techniques	N/A	D	E
○ posture and postural control	B	D	E
○ range of motion	D	D	E
○ strength training	B	D	E
○ stretching	B	D	E
○ reflexes	B	D	E
○ sensation	B	D	E
○ tone management	N/A	D	E
○ movement facilitation techniques	N/A	D	E
○ motor planning	B	D	E
● Integumentary integrity	B	D	E
● Wound management	B	D	E
● Aerobic capacity and endurance	B	D	E
● Anthropometrical Characteristics	D	E	E
● Arousal, mentation and cognition	B	D	E
● Self-care and home management and community or work reintegration	B	D	E