

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Occupations covered on this sheet are [Physiotherapy Assistant](#), [Technical Instructor](#), [Assistant Practitioner](#), [Physiotherapist](#) and [Senior Physiotherapist](#)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Physiotherapy is a health care profession concerned with human function and movement and maximising potential. It uses physical approaches to promote, maintain and restore physical, psychological and social well-being, taking account of variations in health status.

Physiotherapists (also called Physical Therapists) are employed not only in hospitals, but in the wider community health structure, as well as industry, special schools, private practice, education, leisure and sport.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

Physiotherapy Assistants- undertake work delegated by qualified physiotherapists to treat patients by following treatment programmes devised by the physiotherapist.

Assistant Practitioner is a new role in the NHS that fits between the roles of Physiotherapy Assistant and Junior Physiotherapist. With a foundation degree, Physiotherapy Assistants are able to move on to work as an Assistant Practitioner.

Physiotherapists- are concerned with treating patients' physical problems, in particular those associated with neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and respiratory systems.

To become a chartered Physiotherapist, and thus eligible for state registration in the UK, a worker must have a physiotherapy degree approved by the Health Professions Council (HPC).

Senior Physiotherapists- are experienced Physiotherapists who have chosen to specialise in one of the many areas associated with the profession to train, advise, and assess physiotherapists of all grades. Experienced senior physiotherapists might work in research, teaching or move into health service management.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

Physiotherapy Assistants/Technical Instructors – There is no current registration requirement for these job titles.

Assistant Practitioners - There is no current registration requirement for Assistant Practitioners. This is likely to change in the future (possibly in 2009), dependent on the outcome of the pilot of employer led regulation of healthcare support workers in Scotland.

Physiotherapists and Senior Physiotherapists-The job titles of Physiotherapist and Physical Therapist are protected by law. Anyone wishing to practice as a Physiotherapist or as a Physical Therapist in the UK must be registered with the HPC. The HPC register is on-line at: <http://register.hpc-uk.org/lisa/onlineregister/RegistrantSearchInitial.jsp>

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

B&C

Physiotherapy Assistants/Technical Instructors

These posts do not meet the skills criteria.

Assistant Practitioners

Physiotherapy assistants who have gained Foundation Degrees or equivalent are eligible to apply for Assistant Practitioner posts within the NHS. As these Foundation Degrees are set at an equivalent to NVQ Level 4, they meet the skills criteria. Equivalent posts in the private sector also meet the skills criteria.

Physiotherapists/Senior Physiotherapists

If the applicant is HPC registered, they meet the skills criteria. All applications should provide a HPC registration number, and caseworkers should check this against the HPC register. If an applicant is not registered with HPC, then they are not allowed to operate as Physiotherapists in the UK, and therefore should **not** be approved conditionally. See [Annex 1](#) for further details on HPC registration.

TWES

Training

These posts are not suitable for TWES training.

Work Experience

Physiotherapy Assistants/Technical Instructors - The jobs of Physiotherapy Assistant and Technical Instructors are not suitable for work experience, as it does not provide a sufficiently high level of work experience for such work candidates.

Assistant Practitioners - Assistant Practitioner posts are suitable for work experience, since the entry requirement of a foundation degree level qualification is of sufficiently high standard.

Physiotherapists - The Physiotherapist and Physical Therapists occupations are suitable for work experience when the worker is HPC registered.

Senior Physiotherapists - The Senior Physiotherapist and Senior Physical Therapists occupations are not suitable for work experience.

SALARY

Physiotherapists in the NHS are paid in line with the Agenda for Change pay scales from 1 November 2007. This is based on a 37½ hour working week.

Band Level	Agenda for Change from November 2007
Band 4 - Band 5 (points 12-18) Assistant Practitioners	£16,853 - £20,261
Band 5 (points 17-25) Physiotherapist	£19,683 - £25,424
Band 6 (points 23-31) Physiotherapist Specialist	£23,458 - £31,779
Band 7 (points 28-36) Physiotherapist Team Manager	£28,313 - £37,326
Band 8a-b (points 35- 48) Consultant / Principal Physiotherapist	£36,112 - £62,402

Salaries in the private sector are generally similar to those in the NHS.

ADVERTISING

This is not a shortage occupation and employers should undertake an appropriate recruitment search in order to identify if there are any suitably qualified or experienced resident workers available to fill the post on offer.

Examples of appropriate places to advertise jobs include relevant web sites, for example:-

<http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/home.html>
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/jobs/>
<http://www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk>
<http://www.n-i.nhs.uk/index/.php?link=jobs>
<http://www.healthjobsuk.com>
<http://www.csp.org.uk/jobs.cfm>.

Physiotherapy jobs are also advertised in the CSP fortnightly magazine, 'Frontline'.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

14, Bedford Row
London
WC1R 4ED
Tel: 020 7306 6666
Fax: 020 7306 6611
Website: www.csp.org.uk

Health Professions Council (HPC)

Park House
184 Kennington Park Road,
London
SE11 4BU
Tel: 020 7582 0866
Fax: 020 7820 9684
Website: <http://www.hpc-uk.org>
E-mail: info@hpcuk.org

HPC Registration Department

Tel: 0845 3004 472 (08:30 to 17:30)
Fax: 0207 840 9801
Online database: <http://register.hpc-uk.org/lisa/onlineregister/RegistrantSearchInitial.jsp>
E-Mail: registration@hpc-uk.org,

Annex 1

HPC Registration

If the Physiotherapist is trained in the UK they must have obtained their degree from a course that has been approved by the HPC, the list of approved courses can be found on-line at http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/educationandtraining/approvedcourses_ph/

The international application form is for those who have gained a qualification outside of the United Kingdom (UK) and/or do not hold an approved UK qualification but have gained some or all of their professional experience outside the UK.

The HPC international department check that the applicant's qualifications, work experience, conduct, performance and ethics are equivalent to UK standards. There are several possible outcomes to the assessment process.

- Acceptance to the Register
- Rejection due to insufficient basic levels of training and qualifications
- Rejection but with opportunities to join the Register following further training, experience or adaptation. Note there may be a time limit on these.
- Request further verification or invitation to attend a Test of Competence based on the professions' Standards of Proficiency

Annex 2

Specialised non-NHS career progression routes in Physiotherapy

For further information, go to

<http://www.csp.org.uk/director/groupandnetworks/ciogs.cfm>, or visit the specialist website address given below (where available):

- Learning difficulties (www.acppld.org.uk)
- Mental Health (www.cpmh.org.uk)
- Pain (www.ppaonline.co.uk)
- Older people (www.agile-uk.org)
- Paediatrics
- Women's health (www.acpwh.org.uk)
- Acupuncture (www.aacp.uk.com)
- Craniosacral therapy (www.craniosacral.co.uk)
- Energy Medicine (www.energymedphysio.org.uk)
- Reflex therapy
- Amputee Rehabilitation (www.bacpar.org.uk)
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Community Care
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Oncology and Palliative Care (www.acpopc.org.uk)
- Respiratory care (www.acprc.org.uk)
- Animal therapy (www.acpat.org)
- Haemophilia
- Hand therapy (www.hand-therapy.co.uk)
- Manipulation (<http://www.macpweb.org>)
- McKenzie Institute (www.mckenzieinstitute.co.uk)
- Orthopaedic (www.aocp.co.uk)
- Orthopaedic Medicine (www.acpom.org.uk)

Internal Caseworker Guidance

- Rheumatic Care (www.rheumatology.org.uk)
- Sports Medicine (www.acpsm.org)
- Bobath trained (www.bobath.org.uk)
- Neurology (www.acpin.net)
- Vestibular rehabilitation
- Therapeutic Riding
- International work (www.isq4cp.org)
- Extended scope practitioners
- Independent hospitals and charities
- Management (www.physiomanagers.org.uk)
- Medico-legal
- Occupational health and ergonomics (www.acpohe.org.uk)
- Private practice (www.physiofirst.org.uk)
- Electrotherapy
- Hydrotherapy
- Massage

Additionally, some groups are deemed “unrecognised”; although they represent the special interests of chartered physiotherapists like the groups above, they have yet to reach sufficient numbers of members to be officially recognised:

- Military medicine
- Bobath tutors
- Burns care
- HIV
- Paediatric management
- Spinal injury lead clinicians
- Visual impairment
- Yoga