

**State University of New York  
Canton, New York  
Physical Therapist Assistant Program  
PHTA 209 – Clinical III  
COURSE OVERVIEW, OBJECTIVES, & ASSIGNMENTS**

**Course Description:**

The final clinical experience in the PTA curriculum is intended to provide the student with a culminating experience, allowing him/her to experience all facets of physical therapy and health care delivery. During this clinical it is expected that the student will ultimately develop the ability to function autonomously in his/her assigned setting, demonstrating entry level skills and professional behaviors in preparation for assimilation into the working profession. The student is required to complete a comprehensive case study on a selected patient throughout the experience. The student should also participate fully in quality assurance activities and fiscal management. By the end of the clinical experience the student should have a basic roadmap for his/her own career development and lifelong learning.

**Objectives:**

At the end of this affiliation, the physical therapist assistant student will:

1. Communicate verbally and non-verbally with the patient, the physical therapist, health care delivery personnel, and others in an effective, appropriate and capable manner
2. Recognize individual and cultural differences and respond appropriately in all aspects of physical therapy services
3. Exhibit conduct that reflects practice standards that are legal, ethical and safe
4. Communicate an understanding of the plan of care developed by the physical therapist to achieve short and long term goals and intended outcomes
5. Demonstrate competency in implementing selected components of interventions identified in the plan of care established by the physical therapist
6. Demonstrate competency in performing components of data collection skills essential for carrying out the plan of care
7. Adjust interventions within the plan of care established by the physical therapist in response to patient clinical indications and report this to the supervising physical therapist
8. Recognize when interventions should not be provided due to changes in the patient's status and report this to the supervising physical therapist
9. Participate in educating patients and caregivers to achieve patient outcomes based on the plan of care established by the supervising physical therapist
10. Complete thorough, accurate, logical, concise, timely, and legible documentation that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting and other regulatory agencies
11. Participate in discharge planning and follow-up as directed by the supervising physical therapist
12. Under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist, instruct/educate other members of the health care team using established techniques, programs, and instructional materials commensurate with the learning characteristics of the audience
13. Provide accurate and timely information for billing and reimbursement purposes
14. Demonstrate a commitment to meeting the needs of the patients and consumers
15. Conduct self in a manner consistent with that of a healthcare provider.
16. Apply understanding of healthcare literature related to patient interventions in a case study.
17. Describe the clinical facility's planning and operational structure in the context of a patient case study
18. Demonstrate awareness of role in an emergency situation according to facility policy and procedures.
19. Demonstrate self-assessment and importance of lifelong learning as related to values based behaviors.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

Students will be evaluated by the Clinical Instructor using the APTA CPI via CPI Web. Students will be given a letter grade for this course. Grades are determined through written and oral evaluations by the clinical instructor and the ACCE. Grades will be assigned after both the clinical instructor and the ACCE have consulted on the student's performance; and all assignments have been completed and turned in. The ACCE is ultimately responsible for assignment of the final grade.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

For successful completion of this course, each student must complete seven full-time weeks of clinical experience. There are written assignments which must also be completed by the assigned due dates and submitted online.

Required documentation for this clinical affiliation course is as follows:

- APTA Student Evaluation of Clinical Experience
- Journal/Discussion Board (weekly on Angel)
- CSIF update for assigned clinic (via Angel)
- Weekly Planning Forms
- Case study assignment (3 sections – please see below for details)

**Case Study Assignment:**

## Section One

- Consult with the supervising PT or PTA to select a patient for your case study. Ideally, this will be a patient who will be receiving therapy at your facility for at least 2-4 weeks. (I realize that this may not be possible in some settings.)
- Request to observe the documentation of the patient's initial physical therapy evaluation. (It would be even better if you were able to observe the evaluation itself). Use the Nagi Model to identify the following pieces of information relative to this patient:
  1. Active pathology
  2. Primary impairments
  3. Functional limitations resulting from the impairments
- Describe each of these (a-c above) as related to your patient's case and current status. Explain how they fit together as related to this patient's need for physical therapy. (Information on the Nagi model can be found in class notes from PHTA 100 or in the Erickson Documentation text, Chapter 1.)
- For each impairment that was identified describe the method the therapist used to determine that this was an impairment. What tests/functional assessments were used? (MMT, Goniometry, Functional scale, etc)
- What were the results of these tests/functional assessments (i.e. Berg Balance Score 20)
- What goals did the PT set for this patient as related to the impairments noted above? Describe how the goals relate to the impairments/functional limitations.
- Describe the intervention(s) & functional activities that are being utilized to address each impairment. In your description, note why the therapist selected this intervention or activity to treat the impairment/functional limitation? Be specific.

## SectionTwo:

- Identify and describe the billable codes for each of the interventions provided to your patient. Justify why each of these codes was used. (5 points)
- State the type of insurance that will be billed for this patient's care. Did reimbursement affect this patient's progress in any way? (5 points)
- Compare and contrast the roles of all healthcare team members involved in this patient's care. Describe how the parties involved communicate with each other, emphasizing the communication process between the PT and the PTA. (10 points)
- Use the problem solving algorithm during a treatment session with this patient. Describe how you applied the process and your results (10 points)

- Has anything related to this patient's care been adapted or modified relative to this patient as an individual (i.e. is there anything specific to this person that affected/changed the treatment process?) Realize that this may not be something major - it could potentially be a minor change made to adapt to this person's needs or preferences. (5 points)

### Section Three:

- For this section of the case study, you must first find a research study (preferably a randomized control trial) that examines the effectiveness of an intervention that has been used with your patient (or could be used with someone with your patient's diagnosis). Submit your article to me for approval prior to going any further with the assignment. Please contact me if you need assistance getting started with your search.
- Your report should include the following information:
  1. Purpose of the Study - Describe what the researchers are trying to determine in this study.
  2. Subjects: Who are the patients/participants? (criteria for inclusion, demographic information)
  3. Intervention: What intervention did the experimental group get/do? What did the control group get/do?
  4. Data Collection: What tests/measures were used to determine effectiveness of the intervention?
  5. Results: Describe the outcomes. Was the intervention effective? How do you know?
  6. Relate the study and its results to your patient case.
  7. Reference: Provide complete bibliographical information in APA format
- Be sure that you are paraphrasing information from the article and not copying directly from it. Be thoughtful about your answers and write them in your own words. You don't need to provide statistical analysis, you can simply say whether or not the study found the intervention to be effective, or not.