



Health Careers In Alaska

www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info

Physical Therapy Assistant

Physical therapy assistants (PTAs) provide physical therapy services under the direction and supervision of a physical therapist. PTAs help people of all ages who have medical problems, or other health-related conditions that limit their ability to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives.

Some of the care provided by a PTA may include teaching patients or clients exercises for mobility, strength and

coordination, training for activities such as walking with crutches, canes, or walkers, massage, and the use of physical agents and electrotherapy such as ultrasound and electrical stimulation. PTAs also observe the patient's abilities and report their observations to the physical therapist. Unlike a physical therapist, the PTA cannot evaluate a patient, update a plan of care, or discharge a patient.

Physical Therapy Assistant Facts:

Where do physical therapy assistants work in Alaska?

Generally, physical therapy assistants are employed wherever physical therapists work. Hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, home and public health agencies, schools, private physical therapy practices, and the armed forces are major employers. Opportunities in rural Alaska are generally found in hospitals located in the regional centers.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in English, math, and science.
- Graduation from an accredited PTA Associate's degree program.
- PTA licensure is required by the State of Alaska and most other states. After graduation, candidates must pass a state administered national exam and be approved by their state's licensing board.

Hourly Wage Range:

\$9.06-\$32.56 (Mean \$19.69)
**based on Alaska DOL data*

Years in School:

2 years (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

There are currently no physical therapy assistant programs in Alaska. For a list of accredited physical therapy assistant programs in the United States, visit the American Physical Therapy Association's website: <http://www.apta.org/> (see Education Programs: Student Resources: PTA programs). Programs are sorted by state.

State Contacts:

Alaska Physical Therapy Association
P.O. Box 140351
Anchorage, AK 99514
Phone: (907) 566-3749
Email: admin@akapta.org
Website: <http://www.akapta.org/>

National Contacts:

American Physical Therapy Association
1111 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (703) 684-2782
Toll free: (800) 999-2782
Web site: <https://www.apta.org/>

