



## **SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST JOB DESCRIPTION**

SUBJECT: REHABILITATION SERVICES JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

DEPARTMENT: REHABILITATION SERVICES

REPORTS TO: AREA CLINICAL COORDINATOR, CLINICAL REHAB MANAGER OR REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

### **POSITION SUMMARY**

A Speech Language Pathologist is a skilled, registered and licensed professional who evaluates and treats patients referred by a physician. Treatment approaches utilize applicable modalities, supervision of rehabilitation techs, and/or exercise to restore function.

### **MAIN FUNCTION**

Speech Language Pathologists work with an interdisciplinary team and are responsible for scheduling, evaluating, treating, coordinating and supervising techs, documenting services provided, participating in staff meetings and identifying potential patients in need of skilled treatment.

### **POSITION DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. Speech Language Pathologists perform accurate and timely evaluations on each new patient referred, designing an appropriate plan of care for each patient, with realistic and objective short and long-term goals.
  1. Provides patient evaluations within 48 business hours of referral date.
  2. Obtains an adequate history and referring diagnosis.
  3. Uses appropriate evaluation procedures and tools.
  4. Establishes measurable short and long term goals consistent with patient's needs and desires with the end goal of increased functional independence.
  5. Provides consistent and appropriate documentation of all services provided.
  6. Re-evaluates the patient on an ongoing basis and adapts the treatment program as needed.
  7. Notifies physician of patient status and obtains approval for continued treatment.
  
- B. Speech Language Pathologists provide accurate and timely patient records.
  1. Completes daily documentation procedures assuring that all services are appropriately accounted for from a clinical and billing perspective.
  2. Documents significant changes in patient progress as a result of treatment and appropriate steps to modify treatment plan if needed.
  3. Documents equipment provided, home programs and handouts given to the patient.
  4. Documents all communication with physicians and POA concerning patient's status.
  
- C. Speech Language Pathologists demonstrate skill in the use and proper choice of speech therapy techniques and treats patients effectively with good response.
  1. Maintains and enhances patient dignity and modesty during treatment.
  2. Shows appropriate therapist-patient rapport explaining the treatments and discussing the reasons for physical therapy with patient, etc.
  3. Follows accepted precautions and contraindications for treatment.
  4. Utilizes appropriate therapeutic techniques.
  5. Shows awareness of discharge plans and patient home setting with regard to treatment.
  6. Shows skill in treatment planning for diagnosis requiring coordination between disciplines.
  7. Terminates patient's services when maximum functional benefit from treatment has occurred.

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- D. Speech Language Pathologists communicate with others maintaining a professional attitude to assure quality care.
  - 1. Contacts physicians as needed to clarify diagnosis or orders, change treatment, or discharge.
  - 2. Consults patient's POA, nurses, social workers, occupational and physical therapists, and physicians as appropriate to determine an effective discharge plan.
  - 3. Notifies facility personnel and family as to use of equipment.
  - 4. Attends patient related meetings in accordance with facility policy.
  
- E. Speech Language Pathologists demonstrate knowledge of insurance guidelines as related to applicable rehabilitation services.
  
- F. Speech Language Pathologists perform all other duties and functions necessary for the maintenance of efficient, economic and quality operation of the department.
  - 1. Projects and maintains a professional appearance.
  - 2. Makes suggestions for department improvement and assists in development of these as appropriate.
  - 3. Demonstrates leadership qualities utilizing support personnel where appropriate to perform activities not requiring a licensed Speech Language Pathologist.

### **SUPERVISION**

Speech Language Pathologists provide clinical supervision as requested to Rehabilitation Techs.

### **PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

- 1. Must be able to lift 35 pounds. Safe moving, lifting or transferring of patients is required.
- 2. Must be able to stand for extended periods of time.
- 3. Must demonstrate appropriate and applicable fine motor skills.
- 4. Must demonstrate adequate visual acuity for safety with patient interaction.

### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Speech Language Pathologists must be a graduate of an accredited Speech Pathology training program and have secured the Certificate of Clinical Competence.

### **LICENSURE OR REGISTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Speech Language Pathologists must be licensed in the state practicing by the Board of Speech Therapy and provide an acceptable Criminal Background Check.

This job description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees within this classification. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities and qualifications which may be required of the employee assigned to the position. Depending on the size of the facility the job duties may vary. Receipt of this job description does not imply or create a promise of employment or an employment contract of any kind.

I have read and understood this job description. By signing this document, I hereby certify that I am able to perform this job without physical restrictions. I further understand that if I experience a change in physical condition which affects my ability to perform this job, I have an affirmative obligation to advise my immediate supervisor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date