

# ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

**JOB TITLE** Therapy Assistant

**DEPARTMENT** In Patient/Day Hospice

**Number doing this job:** 1

**Location(s)** St. Michael's Hospice

**Date** 05/2010

## **Main Purpose:**

To work with Hospice patients to maximise their independence.

To support the qualified Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist in the assessment and ongoing re-assessment of the clients needs.

To support the multiprofessional team in providing evidenced based, individualised palliative care to patients.

## **Position in Organisation**

(See organisation chart)

## **Scope of Job – main tasks, duties and responsibilities      % Time/importance**

### **Clinical**

**95%**

- Work under the direction of Physiotherapist and Occupational Therapist (physio/OT) in the delivery of high quality holistic therapy care.
- To provide basic assessments, giving advice and treatment on an ongoing basis, offering practise to improve independence in daily functional activities and mobility.
- To deliver delegated therapy programmes devised by the Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist empowering users and families to participate in the management of their illness or disability.
- To assist Occupational Therapist with home assessments.
- To check and maintain adequate levels of equipment for the service.
- Contribute to the keeping of accurate and relevant records
- Report changes in condition noticed in patients and work with the multi-professional team to adapt care appropriately.
- Be aware of patients that are at risk of falling and ways to prevent falls
- Work collaboratively with the multi-disciplinary team
- Contribute to health and safety risk assessments and actions required as a result, as appropriate

### **Education**

**5%**

- Share knowledge base with other hospice staff
- Attend mandatory training.
- Develop and maintain own knowledge and skills in palliative care.
- Be involved in user feedback.
- Participate in regular supervision and undertake annual appraisal.

## **Dimensions and Limits of Authority/Influence**

- Deliver therapy programmes under the direction of a Physio/OT.
- Delegated responsibility for allocated patients' care.
- Report any concerns / changes in the patients' condition and or family members' wellbeing to a member of the clinical team
- Be aware of own limitations and when to seek advice/help.

## Communications

### Internal

- Communicate effectively with patients and carers, all hospice staff and volunteers
- Establish and maintain effective communication and working relationships with the multi-professional teams within the hospice.
- Contribute information about patients/ relatives to the multi-professional team either directly at MDT meetings or via Physio/OT.

### External

Community OT and Physiotherapy services, Equipment and Wheelchair services to pass on information and to request items for and information about patients

### Skills/Activities Involved

### Indicator A-D

Rehabilitation Skills	A
Ability to work within a large team	A
Good communication and interpersonal skills	B
Able to use own initiative	C
Able to respond to changing situations	B
Able to identify personal coping strategies	B
IT skills	C

### Allocation/Checking of Work

Managed by the Physio/OT with daily supervision

Activity recorded as part of the patients' records under the supervision of a registered Physio/OT.

All the work will be reactive

Self checking, also by Physio/OT

### Physical Effort

Work is physically labour intensive, on feet for most of the shift and sometimes continuously. 45%

Regular safe manual handling of patients and equipment, including beds, mattresses and chairs – significant risk with the manual handling of some patients who can be unpredictable (7-35 stone). 45%

Regular bending and stretching involved, at times in awkward difficult positions.

Key board input 10%

### Working Conditions

Routinely exposed to patients with infections, infected linen and body fluids. 15%  
Some exposure to hazardous substances including chemicals, medical gases and medications. 10%

Recognised protective clothing including aprons/gloves to be worn as required.

Daily contact with distressed patients, carers and relatives requiring an emotional support. Coping with occasional unpredictable situations

Occasionally visiting homes with OT which can pose physical difficulties

**Mental Ability (Qualifications/Professional)**

Willingness to study for a relevant NVQ level 2  
Able to demonstrate a good insight into palliative care principles and philosophy.  
Demonstrate an understanding of Physio/OT philosophy.

**Experience**

Previous experience, working in a health care setting preferably as a therapy assistant.

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**Job Title: Therapy Assistant**

**Department: Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy**

**Date**

**Job Description written by: Helen Mussell and Karen Wolverson**

**Signed:** ..... **Signed:** .....  
(Job holder) (Manager)

**Print name:** ..... **Print name:** .....

**Date:** ..... **Date:** .....

**N.B. This section will be removed from the copy to be used for Job Evaluation purposes.**