

# Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides

SOC: 31-2020 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

\$60,050

Median Salary

157,100

Employment

+16.0%

Growth Rate

## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: See Requirements (BLS)

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Medium Risk** - 48.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

## ■ Work-Life Balance

**6.0/10** - Good work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.8/10	Investigative	6.0/10
Artistic	4.4/10	Social	8.4/10
Enterprising	4.6/10	Conventional	7.4/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Compassion, Detail oriented, Dexterity, Interpersonal skills, Physical stamina

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides typically perform the following tasks: • Clean and organize work area and disinfect equipment after treatment. • Secure patients into or onto therapy equipment. • Instruct, motivate, safeguard, or assist patients practicing exercises or functional activities, under direction of medical staff. • Confer with physical therapy staff or others to discuss and evaluate patient information for planning, modifying, or coordinating treatment. • Observe patients during treatment to compile and evaluate data on patients' responses and progress and report to physical therapist. • Change linens, such as bed sheets and pillow cases. • Administer active or passive manual therapeutic exercises, therapeutic massage, or heat, light, sound, water, or electrical modality treatments, such as ultrasound. • Transport patients to and from treatment areas, using wheelchairs or providing standing support. • Perform clerical duties, such as taking inventory, ordering supplies, answering telephone, taking messages, or filling out forms. • Schedule patient appointments with physical therapists and coordinate therapists' schedules. • Arrange treatment supplies to keep them in order. • Assist patients to dress, undress, or put on and remove supportive devices, such as braces, splints, or slings. • Maintain equipment or furniture to keep it in good working condition, including performing the assembly or disassembly of equipment or accessories. • Record treatment given and equipment used. • Measure patient's range-of-joint motion, body parts, or vital signs to determine effects of treatments or for patient evaluations. • Train patients to use orthopedic braces, prostheses, or supportive devices. • Administer traction to relieve neck or back pain, using intermittent or static traction equipment. • Fit patients for orthopedic braces, prostheses, or supportive devices, adjusting fit as needed. • Participate in patient care tasks, such as assisting with passing food trays, feeding residents, or bathing residents on bed rest.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physical-therapist-assistants-and-aides.htm>