



## **AQUATIC THERAPY CARE ASSISTANT**

(Permanent, Full-time)

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** Aquatic Therapy Care Assistant

**Purpose of the Position:**

- To provide support to therapists in delivering patient treatment programmes, primarily within the Aquatic service, and assist with other services or programmes as required.
- To assist patients with, or to facilitate undressing/dressing and showering before and after the therapy session in the pool.
- To carry out assigned duties in regard to stock control, preparation of the clinical area and cleaning as required.
- To maintain clear records (including pool testing), documents and cleaning records.

**Accountable to:**

- Physiotherapy Manager/Deputy
- Clinical Specialists, Senior and Staff grade therapists across the service/programme.

**Liaison / Communication:**

- All members of the Physiotherapy Department
- Patients, families and carers
- Staff from units, other services and programmes as required



## **AQUATIC THERAPY CARE ASSISTANT**

(Permanent, Full-time)

### **Overview of the Role**

The post holder will assist therapists in providing therapy for patients in the Aquatic service and will be responsible for ensuring the treatment areas are prepared for treatment sessions as appropriate. She/he will be responsible for cleaning before, during and after treatment sessions. She/he will also have house-keeping duties and assisting with facilitating transporting/mobilising of patients as required. The area of work will be in the Aquatic Therapy Department, but she/he may be asked to carry out appropriate tasks in other physiotherapy areas, e.g. Sports & Exercise Department or other treatment areas from time to time, as services require. They will work with patients on a one-to-one basis and in groups to support therapy programmes in line with departmental safety procedures. Aquatic Therapy Care Assistants will work with their therapy colleagues on a daily basis to enhance skill sets and to facilitate appropriate cover for colleagues as required.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **General Accountability**

- To work with therapy staff to ensure the smooth running of the aquatic service or other assigned service/programme.
- To participate in staff meetings and any relevant in-service training as assigned.
- To participate in continuing care rotas including the Maximising Rehabilitation Opportunities initiative involving Saturday and extended day working.
- To be cognisant of and observe all relevant NRH policies.
- To attend all NRH mandatory training.
- In co-operation with colleagues be responsible for the safety of patients and staff within the department.
- To undertake any other duties appropriate to the post as may be required & directed by management.

### **Specific Accountability**

- Develop rapport with patients to encourage and motivate them.
- Ensure that patients are not left unattended within the Aquatic Physiotherapy department.
- Be responsible for opening the treatment areas as deemed necessary in the morning.
- Ensure that the treatment areas are not left open when no staff are present i.e. lock up at lunch-time and at the end of the day.
- Check emergency equipment (i.e. ventilation equipment and First Aid kit etc) in the treatment areas on a weekly basis and report any defects to the Physiotherapy Manager or Deputy.
- Assist patients to and from the department as required.
- Providing personal care (e.g. toileting) for patients as required.
- Follow flushing and purging protocol for all sinks in the Aquatic Department as needed.
- Make up Clor Clean solution for cleaning equipment as required.
- Maintain document records and cleaning schedules.

### **Main Duties**

- Assist physiotherapists with treatment programmes as assigned.
- Assist patients with treatment programmes in the pool under the guidance of physiotherapist.
- Assist patients with, or to facilitate, undressing/dressing before and after the therapy session in the pool. (Both male & female patients, adults & children)
- Assist patients with, or to facilitate showering before and after the therapy session in the pool. (Both male & female patients, adults & children)
- Contribute to the maintenance of records of treatment and progress of patients either in hard copy and/or on TrakCare in accordance with departmental requirements.
- Contribute to the weekly or daily timetabling of patient sessions and amending as necessary.
- Transfer patients to and from wheelchair in the changing room and at the pool side using hoist/handling aids as appropriate. (This includes transfer boards, the pool hoist, and the tracking hoist as required.)
- Maintain treatment areas in a clean/tidy condition appropriate to patient care.
- Ensure that plinths, shower chairs and other equipment used by patients are wiped down at the end of each treatment session.
- Ensure that stocks of cleaning, photocopying, office supply, therapeutic materials are adequate. Prepare a stock list in collaboration with physiotherapists by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.
- Check off monthly stores as they are delivered and put them away.
- Ensure a safe environment is maintained for patients, staff and visitors.

### **Other duties as required:**

- Deliver equipment, notices etc to the units or other areas as required by physiotherapists.
- All pieces of equipment including plinths, tilt tables, mats, parallel bars, Motomed, Arjo walkers, etc are to be wiped down after each patient contact.
- Monitor sharps box and ensure it is maintained and disposed of as directed.
- Maintain and monitor emergency equipment and first aid box and report deficiencies to Manager/Deputy.

### **Specific Duties**

- Carry out testing and recording of the water temperature and chemical levels and dosing as per guidelines.
- Carry out pool plant checks and microbiology water sampling as per protocol.
- Ensure there is an adequate supply of towels, swimwear, and robes for patients and staff for each session.
- Return used linen to laundry bags after each session and notify laundry department if not collected, ensuring laundry bags are only ever three quarters full.
- Maintain changing rooms (patient and staff) in a clean and tidy manner.
- Maintain pool area in accordance with the cleaning schedule.
- Giving pool side instruction of exercise programs to patients as instructed by therapists.

### **Patient Safety & Quality**

The NRH prioritises the delivery of quality and safe patient care under HIQA and other quality standards. It is the responsibility of all staff at all levels to ensure that the highest level of quality services required for each patient is maintained. If you have a concern regarding any issue of patient safety and well-being please bring this to the immediate attention of your manager.

Quality and Patient Safety supports the Health Service to deliver high quality and safe services to patients and service users. The post-holder is responsible and accountable to deliver a quality service that ensures patient safety. The post holder will work within a risk management framework that complies with the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) National Standards and other quality standards as appropriate.

*The extent of speed and change in the delivery of health care is such that adaptability is essential for all staff. The post-holder will be required to maintain, develop and*

*enhance the necessary professional knowledge, skills and aptitudes required to respond to a changing situation.*

*This job description does not contain an exhaustive list of duties, and the post holder may be required to undertake additional responsibilities. It will be reviewed from time to time in order to adapt and develop the role, according to service needs and Hospital policies.*

*I agree that this position description clearly outlines the specific responsibilities and duties that are to be carried out as part of this role. I also understand that these represent the minimum requirements to perform the duties at the current level.*

*To be signed by the post holder.*

*Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Line Manager Name: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Employee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Manager's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Date: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Date: \_\_\_\_\_*