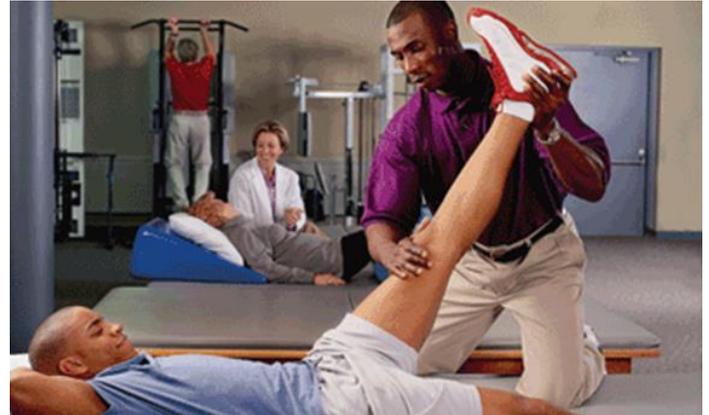


# Physical Therapists (SOC 29-1123)

Assess, plan, organize, and participate in rehabilitative programs that improve mobility, relieve pain, increase strength, and improve or correct disabling conditions resulting from disease or injury.

Sample of reported job titles: Physical Therapist (PT), Staff Physical Therapist, Home Care Physical Therapist, Outpatient Physical Therapist, Pediatric Physical Therapist, Registered Physical Therapist (RPT), Rehabilitation Services Director



## Job Responsibilities

- Perform and document an initial exam, evaluating data to identify problems and determine a diagnosis prior to intervention.
- Plan, prepare, or carry out individually designed programs of physical treatment to maintain, improve, or restore physical functioning, alleviate pain, or prevent physical dysfunction in patients.
- Record prognosis, treatment, response, and progress in patient's chart or enter information into computer.
- Identify and document goals, anticipated progress, and plans for reevaluation.
- Administer manual exercises, massage, or traction to help relieve pain, increase patient strength, or decrease or prevent deformity or crippling.
- Evaluate effects of treatment at various stages and adjust treatments to achieve maximum benefit.
- Test and measure patient's strength, motor development and function, sensory perception, functional capacity, or respiratory or circulatory efficiency and record data.
- Instruct patient and family in treatment procedures to be continued at home.
- Confer with the patient, medical practitioners, or appropriate others to plan, implement, or assess the intervention program.
- Review physician's referral and patient's medical records to help determine diagnosis and physical therapy treatment required.

## New Hampshire Outlook

- Average Hourly Wage\*: \$38.95
- Estimated Employment 2014: 1,453
- Projected Employment 2024: 1,905
- Expected 10-Year Growth: 31.1%
- Projected Average Annual Openings: 84

## Top industries in NH for this occupation:

- Ambulatory Health Care Services
- Hospitals
- Nursing and Residential Care Facilities
- Self-Employed Workers

\* Wage estimates based on surveys conducted from November 2012 to May 2015.

### Education and Training

Most Physical Therapists have attained a Doctorate, although educational requirements include approved post-baccalaureate professional degrees below the Doctorate. Some Physical Therapists enter a residency program after graduation to complete their training. All states require Physical Therapists to be licensed.

In New Hampshire, Physical Therapists must obtain a license from the Physical Therapy Governing Board, part of the New Hampshire Office of Allied Health Professionals. Applicants for licensure must complete an approved educational program, and pass the National Physical Therapy Licensure examination. To maintain their licensure, Physical Therapists must complete 24 hours of continuing education biennially.

### Interests (Holland Code): SIR

- **Social:** Social occupations frequently involve working with, communicating with, and teaching people. These occupations often involve helping or providing service to others.
- **Investigative:** Investigative occupations frequently involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking. These occupations can involve searching for facts and figuring out problems mentally.
- **Realistic:** Realistic occupations frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outside, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.

**Career Cluster:** Health Science

### Work Environment

Physical therapists typically work in private offices and clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes. They spend much of their time on their feet, actively working with patients.

### Additional Information Sources\*\*

American Physical Therapy Association, <[www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)>

### To Find a Job

Contact the nearest NH Employment Security office or go online to [www.nhes.nh.gov](http://www.nhes.nh.gov)

\*\* Inclusion of this information is intended to provide a convenient resource for research, but in no way constitutes an endorsement for any organization, nor is the list all-inclusive.

### Source:

NH Employment Projections, base year 2014 to projected year 2024  
Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bureau of Labor Statistics



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