

PT201, Medical Reporting for the Physical Therapist Assistant
Sample syllabus submitted by Professor Tuckson, Spring 2001

Course Title: Medical Reporting for the Physical Therapist Assistant
Course Number: PT201
Semester: Fall 2000
Credit Hours: 3
Clock Hours: 45 lecture hours
Class Time: Wednesdays 3:30p.m.-5:30 p.m./Thursdays 3:30p.m.- 4:30p.m.
August 30, 2000 - November 10, 2000
Instructor: LaVerne E. Tuckson, P.T. , M.Ed.
Required Text: Documentation for P.T.A.'s by Marianne Lukan (F.A. Davis)

Course Description

This course will instruct the student in the principles of medical reporting, including the ability to abstract pertinent information from the actual medical records, the writing of patient progress notes in standardized formats and a review of medical terminology. The students will also learn to write critiques of journal articles and have an introduction to third party reimbursement including Medicare and Medicaid as well as outcome effectiveness in physical therapy.

Teaching Methods

Lecture, group discussions, problem solving role playing, practical writing skills with the use of appropriate medical terminology and abbreviations.

Requirements

Attendance of all lectures. On time turning in of all assignments. Preparedness for all lectures and class participation by staying current with all outside reading assignments.

Attire

No lab attire is required.

Grading Distribution

Critiques.....	15%
Review Exercises.....	15%
Field trip.....	15%
Discussions.....	15%
Midterm.....	20%
Final.....	20%

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate through written examinations and projects the ability to:

1. correctly and concisely write patient care notes.
2. the ability to abstract pertinent information from medical records.
3. communicate in writing and orally by using appropriate medical terminology and abbreviations.
4. organize with clarity, consciousness and objectivity.
5. maintain accurate and appropriate records and forms
6. write progress notes in S.O.A.P. format to include treatment given, purpose of treatment, and patient response.
7. Understand the role of the PTA as part of the patient care continuum as it pertains to documentation.
8. perform the appropriate portions of a F.I. M. (functional outcomes measures)
9. write and discuss the critique of journal articles
10. understand the importance of proper outcomes documentation for the various forms of third party reimbursement.

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT PROGRAM
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
TAKOMA PARK**

PT201 Medical Reporting for PTA

Fall

Faculty: L.E. Tuckson, M.Ed., P.T.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week #1	Introduction to the Course Article Evaluations	Handouts
Week #2	Why document ? Critique an article.	Text Ch. 1 &2 Handouts Due: Review Ex. # 1& 2
Week #3	Organization and Presentation Student Presentation: # 11 Field Trip	Text Ch 3 Due: Review Ex. # 3
Week #4	How to Document: Guidelines and Subjective Student Presentation: #1 and #2 Field Trip	Text Ch. 4 & 5 Due: Review Ex. # 4 & 5
Week #5	Midterm Exam - 1 hour (Ch. 1 - 5) How to Document: Objective Data Student Presentations: # 3 & #4 Field Trip	Text Ch 6 Due: Review Ex. #6
Week #6	How to Document: Problems, Goals or Functional outcomes Student Presentations: # 5 & #6 Field Trip	Text Ch 7 Due: Review Ex. #7
Week # 7	How to Document: Treatment Plan Student Presentations: #7 & # 8 Field Trip	Text Ch 8 Due: Review Ex. # 8
Week # 8	Other Documentation Responsibilities Student Presentations: #9 & 10 Field Trip	Text Ch 9 Due: Review Ex. #9
Week # 9	Final Exam Practice Exercise # 1 - 8	Due : Ch 10 pg. 145-158

Research Article Critiques What the reader must ask!

This assignment involves some research and reading of sources outside of the texts used for this class. Each student will be required to read several research articles published in professional scientific journals of reputable value. Newspaper articles, and magazine articles are NOT permitted. The article must pertain to the practice of physical therapy.

L M. Crocker has given eight questions asked by reviewers in an attempt to increase the reader's ability to interpret and evaluate the research report. These questions and brief discussion follow. *

1. Is the research problem or purpose clearly defined? Although the problem and purpose of research are different, the author should provide information about the research problem, operationally define the variables, and give the purpose of the study. This information is usually found in the introduction section of the article.

2. How does this research question relate to the current body of knowledge in the profession? The significance of the study is indicated in the literature review and conclusions.

3. How were data gathered? The author should have stated how data were gathered in the method section and provided the unit of measurement found (found in method or results sections, or in the tables). The data gathering method is usually indicated by a description of the instrumentation such as a questionnaire, interview, strain gauge, or graphic recorders. The author should convince the reader that the method was appropriate for the design and solving the identified problem.

4. Is the size of the sample sufficient to answer the question? Journal reviewers are often impressed with large sized samples but a large sized sample is not always essential. Experimental "overkill" is possible. Crocker suggested that authors should report the percentage of the population in the sample and the raw number in the sample so that readers may judge the appropriateness of sample size.

5. What is the sampling procedure? The author should state how subjects were obtained for the study. Sampling procedures are usually found in the method section. Subjects attrition should also be discussed in the paper in the

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discussion section.

6. Are the design procedures of the study described? Procedures are supposed to be described in sufficient detail so that any interested reader could replicate the study (necessary for determining reliability of the study) and are discussed in the method section. The design is sometimes described in the method or results section, depending on how worded.

7. Are the appropriate statistical procedures used? If correlational or comparative studies are presented, then the correct statistics must be used to describe and analyze the data. The level of statistical significance should be reported and post hoc analyses if appropriate.

8. Is the article well organized? The suggested format of components of a research report must be followed unless the author of the report is justified in deviating from the standard reporting procedure. The style of reporting must be looked at in a critical fashion to judge the research and the facts presented. If ambiguous sentences are encountered, the reader must read and interpret with suspicion.

Answering these questions is good exercise for the student to learn the principles of good writing, the essentials of research report, and the methodical evaluation of the written report.

The assignment:

1. The report should be 3 typed pages in length. The first page is a cover page, the second page is the summary page, and the third page is the critique. The summary of the article should be written in your own words. Use the 8 questions above as your guide to write the critique page. Include in your summary why you chose your article.
2. Submit a copy of your article with your report. Include a copy of the authors summary. Failure to submit the authors summary will result in zero for the assignment.
3. Make sufficient copies of your article and distribute to your classmates, and the professor, at least one week in advance of your presentation, so we can read and review and be ready to discuss the critique.

4. On your day, be prepared to lead the discussion and stir controversy. Make this a spirited event. This is your 15 minutes of fame!

5. Be wise. Keep it simple.

* Crocker, LM: Let's reduce the communication gap: Guidelines for preparing a research article. *Phy Ther* 54 971-976, 1974.

FIELD TRIP

Make arrangements to visit a hospital, nursing home, or rehabilitation department to attend one of the following:

1. P.M. & R patient rounds
2. patient care conference
3. Discharge planning conferences
4. Ortho/Neuro/Cardiopulmonary rounds
5. Brace and prosthetic clinic

Write a 3 page paper describing the experience and describing the significance of the team approach. Collect blank documentation forms from at least two disciplines (O.T., Speech., Social Workers, Nursing, Physicians, Administrators, family, attorneys, the patient, etc....). Compare and contrast the responsibilities of each discipline as it relates to the management of the patients' recovery. Provide a cover page to include your name, the date and type of conference attending, the name of the facility, and the names and titles of the members in health care team, the patients diagnosis, past and present medical history, hospital course, and prognosis. Be ready to discuss your experience in class.

Submit the blank forms along with the paper.