

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position involves the performance of public health nursing activities including assessment of health needs and developing a plan of care for individuals and families. The incumbent is also responsible for the initial implementation of nursing care plans and providing skilled nursing care as well as the periodic re-evaluation of individual and family nursing needs. The work is performed under the general direction of a Supervising Public Health Nurse or other higher level nursing or administrative personnel, with wide leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out assignments. Supervision may be exercised over Medical Assistants, Registered Professional Nurses and Home Health Aides assigned to assist in patient care. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Makes initial assessment, develops and/or amends the care plan for individuals and families in a variety of settings;
Provides skilled nursing care and prescribes treatments to patients and demonstrates nursing care to patients and families;
Counsels and guides individuals and families toward self-help in recognition and solution of physical, emotional and environmental health problems;
Coordinates plans for service with nutritionists, social workers, physical therapists, physicians and other professional and paraprofessional workers concerned with individual and family health care;
Provides for the continuity of patient care by promoting referral of patients to appropriate community agencies;
May supervise Registered Professional Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Medical Assistants, Home Health Aides and other auxiliary nursing staff;
Teaches classes, addresses groups and participates in community planning related to nursing and public health;
Performs diagnostic and developmental tests;
Obtains specimens for various tests;
Maintains agency and nursing care records and reports;
Compiles and uses records, reports and statistical information for evaluation and planning of the assigned programs;
Attends staff meetings and in service training programs;
Administers immunizations, skin tests, medications, etc.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of current public health nursing practices;
Working knowledge of the administrative organizational structure of community agencies;
Skill in the application of current nursing procedures and techniques of patient care;

Ability to assess, plan and coordinate nursing care for individuals, families and groups and to supervise nursing personnel assigned to assist with this care;

Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing;

Ability to manage large volume case-loads;

Ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships;

Ability to perform duties in accordance with the American Nurses Association Code for Professional Nurses;

Ability to perform close, detail work involving considerable visual effort and strain;

Good judgment;

Empathy;

Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS*:

A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in nursing; and

B) Licensure and current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State.

*Per Section 11.41 of the New York State Department of Health Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYSDOHCCR).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT AT THE TIME OF ASSIGNMENT: Possession of the appropriate level Motor Vehicle Operator's License.

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COMPETITIVE