

NURSE PRACTITIONER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position involves providing, in collaboration with a licensed physician, physical examinations, assessments, diagnosis, therapeutic procedures, counseling and health education for clients of the Health Department. The incumbent functions as a clinical expert consultant and/or coordinator for the health care of patients within a clinical specialty such as adult health, child health, family health, maternal health, public health or in specialized areas of public health practices such as communicable disease control or family planning. This class differs from a Public Health Nurse in that the Nurse Practitioner provides services in a specialized field of clinical practice requiring additional training, education and supervised specialized clinical experience. The work is performed under the general direction of a higher level administrator with a wide leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out assignments. Supervision may be exercised over nursing and support staff within a clinical team. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Takes, records, reviews and interprets the medical and social history of patients;

Performs physical examinations utilizing the techniques of inspection, palpation, percussion and auscultation, and recommends laboratory tests and procedures to obtain additional data;

Performs and interprets laboratory tests and procedures in the clinic;

Makes assessments of patient's clinical problems and initiates appropriate management including medication and follow-up, according to Medical Guidelines and Protocols;

Interprets findings and diagnosis to patient and provides counseling and advice on methods of treatment, control and prevention, as well as answers patient's questions;

Consults with and/or refers to the patient's private physician in cases where additional medical information regarding previous illness or treatment is required, or where the medical treatment necessary is beyond the scope of the program;

Initiates and participates in professional and public education activities;

Responsible for development and updating, in consultation with the Commissioner or Medical Director, medical protocols and guidelines to improve patient care.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of public health nursing;

Thorough knowledge of the theory and practice of preventive and public health care inclusive of those skills required to develop and implement a plan of primary health care to meet patient needs;

Skill in clinical assessment, treatment and follow-up care of health problems;
Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing;
Ability to understand and carry out complex and technical, oral and written instructions;
Ability to recognize signs and symptoms associated with changes in the physical and emotional health of patients and respond appropriately;
Ability to explain and interpret findings and treatments to patients, their families, nursing staff and other health care personnel;
Ability to supervise the administration of therapeutic measures prescribed;
Ability to perform close, detail work involving considerable visual effort and strain;
Empathy;
Good judgment;
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A) Certification from the New York State Education Department as a Nurse Practitioner; AND
- B) Licensure and current registration as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State; AND
- C) Either:
 - 1) A Master's Degree in nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university; OR
 - 2) A Bachelor's Degree in nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university and one year of professional nursing experience.

NOTE: Certain assignments made to employees in this class will require reasonable access to transportation to meet field work requirements made in the ordinary course of business in a timely and efficient manner.

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COMPETITIVE