

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE (SPANISH SPEAKING)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:

This position involves the performance of professional public health nursing duties in the Dutchess County Health Department or the Office for the Aging Community Alternative System Agency (CASA). Responsibilities include the assessment of health needs and development of a care plan for individuals and families. Nurses assigned to the Health Department area are also responsible for leading and participating in all community nursing activities in an assigned geographic area. The Public Health Nurse (Spanish Speaking) is responsible for the initial implementation of nursing care plans and provision of nursing care. Incumbents coordinate the work of Registered Professional Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Home Health Aides and others assigned to carry out the patient care plan. This title is identical to Public Health Nurse with the exception of the required ability of the incumbent to be bilingual in Spanish and English and to be able to read and write in both languages. Work is performed under the supervision of higher level titles such as Supervising Public Health Nurse, Director of Public Health Nursing, Long Term Care Director, or Director of Communicable Disease Control.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. When assigned to the Health Department provides skilled nursing care and prescribed treatments to patients in their homes and demonstrates nursing care to patients and their families in Spanish and English;
2. Provides initial and ongoing comprehensive nursing assessments in the hospital and/or the community by utilizing interviewing techniques, observation, medical/social records and professional consultation in Spanish and English;
3. In conjunction with the health care team and other health care professionals develops care plans with recommendations for the provision of all necessary services;
4. Coordinates service plans with nutritionists, social workers, physical therapists, physicians and other professional workers concerned with individual and family health care;
5. When assigned to CASA, acts as liaison with hospitals and attends discharge planning meetings;
6. Makes referrals to related health care providers such as hospitals, nursing homes, home health care agencies, adult day care centers and other related providers;
7. Provides ongoing needs assessment and care review to patients and monitors appropriateness and quality of services being provided;
8. Counsels and guides individuals and families toward self-help in recognition and solution of physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health problems;
9. When assigned to the Health Department, provides nursing services in clinics and schools;
10. Teaches classes, addresses groups and participates in community planning efforts designed to increase public awareness and foster positive public relations;
11. Maintains individual case records and compiles records, reports, forms and statistical information for evaluation and planning of programs;
12. When assigned to CASA, may specialize in hospital liaison activities;
13. Develops an awareness of specific concerns and needs of the Spanish speaking population in the Public Health system and CASA and addresses these concerns;
14. Does related work as required.

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FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of current public health nursing practice; working knowledge of the administrative organization of community facilities and of the community resources available; skill in the application of current nursing procedures and techniques of patient care; ability to plan and coordinate nursing care for individuals, families and groups, and supervise nursing personnel assigned to assist with this care; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; ability to work, read, write and converse in Spanish and English; ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships; ability to accept and utilize guidance; good powers of observation and analysis; sensitivity to the reaction of others; ability to perform duties in accordance with ANA Code for Professional Nurses; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

A Bachelor's degree in nursing from a regionally accredited or New York State registered four (4) year college or university.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Eligibility for a New York State Registered Professional Nurse's license at time of application. Possession of said license at time of appointment;
2. Possession of a valid driver's license;
3. Fluency in understanding, speaking, reading, writing, and translating Spanish.

NOTE: Use of a personal vehicle for field work may be required. Mileage reimbursement for this use will be provided.

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ADOPTED: 01/01/97