

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

Nature of Work: Under moderate supervision, provides general direct nursing care to ill/injured/infirm individuals within structured care settings. Work is typically performed under the supervision of a registered professional nurse or licensed physician. May direct the activities of nursing assistants, aides and technicians in providing basic patient care services. Specific position assignments may be in: general nursing care, long-term care, dispensary, public health, home health, psychiatric care, intensive care, emergency care, recovery room, labor room, infirmary or other specialized health care function. Required to participate in continuing education in nursing. Performs related work as required. Alternate work schedules are typical.

Distinguishing Characteristics: Assists professional medical staff in providing direct nursing care to patients, including medical treatments, administering medications, giving injections, and assisting in care planning and recording.

Examples of Work

Takes and records temperature, blood pressure, pulse and respiration; collects blood and specimens for testing; performs catheterization and colostomy care; continues and discontinues intravenous fluids; administers medications according to the patient care plan.

Screens patients and records medical information; assists physician and registered nurse in examinations and treatments; sets up and cleans examination area; gives injections and immunizations; instructs clients in the use of medications and self-care procedures.

Observes, records, and reports to appropriate persons the physical and mental condition of the patient and signs and symptoms which may be indicative of change.

Administers nursing care treatments to wounds, incisions, ostomy and tracheotomy sites; administers oxygen; inserts and/or replaces nasogastric tubes.

Inventories controlled medications, completes medication usage reports, and control records.

Participates in the review and implementation of procedures designed to ensure comfort and safety of patients.

Performs specialized nursing functions such as, the preparation and care of patients receiving specialized treatments.

Provides for the emotional and physical comfort and safety of patients.

Assists patients with activities of daily living such as grooming and personal hygiene and encourages appropriate self-care capabilities.

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (CONT'D)**Examples of Work (cont'd)**

- Discusses patient care and progress with physicians and registered nurses.
- Assists with the rehabilitation of patients according to the patient care plan.
- Carries out preventive measures in community health facilities such as children's clinics, maternity clinics and out-patient clinics.
- Assigns work and provides guidance to unlicensed health personnel.
- Performs first aide, emergency and disaster measures according to established procedures.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Knowledge of practical nursing procedures.
- Knowledge of human physiology and anatomy.
- Knowledge of the emotional impact of health problems and the role of the nurse in self-care programs and patient rehabilitation.
- Knowledge and understanding of organization of the patient care unit and the roles and responsibilities of the various licensed and unlicensed personnel assigned to the unit.
- Ability to observe and record deviations in patient condition.
- Ability to maintain accurate medical records of treatments, medications, symptoms and patient conditions.
- Ability to relate to patient and family members and to motivate self-care capabilities.
- Ability to direct the work of unlicensed nursing personnel.
- Ability to respond to potentially life threatening situations in a calm and orderly manner.
- Ability to exercise sound judgment.
- Skill in routine medical procedures; ie.: applying bandages and/or tourniquets, giving injections, measuring temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure, etc.
- May require skill in administering CPR.

Minimum Qualifications

- Training:** Current West Virginia License or temporary permit to practice as a licensed practical nurse. Successful completion of course in intravenous therapy and training in venipuncture permits the LPN to start intravenous fluids.

Established: 10/16/90
 Effective: 11/1/90