

9605

NURSE 1

Nature of Work: Under general supervision, performs professional work at the entry level providing direct patient care to individuals usually within structured health care settings, within acute, intermediate and long-term care facilities or public health clinics. Patients are individuals with common, well-defined health problems who need information or support to maintain health. Nursing interventions are established nursing practices with predictable outcomes. Works under the supervision of a higher level medical professional. May provide direction to unlicensed and licensed personnel such as LPN's, aides, and orderlies. Shift work may be required. Travel may be required. Performs related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics: This is entry level nursing where training has prepared the incumbent to care for the majority of patients at the local health department or other health facilities. The rudiments of health care assessment, protocol, and intervention are performed in the course of normal work assignments.

Examples of Work

- Interviews patients or their families to complete a medical history and to make psychosocial and physical assessment.
- Identifies and documents changes in patients' health, especially those which interfere with the individuals' ability to meet basic needs.
- Establishes a priority of care based on identified needs.
- Provides direct patient care to individuals with common, well-defined health problems in a structured setting.
- Uses established criteria to evaluate patient care.
- Carries out the prescribed care according to established nursing practices.
- Refers patients to alternative public or private agencies for continuing care.
- Meets with family, significant others, and members of the nursing team to establish and evaluate short- and long-range treatment goals.
- Provides direction to other licensed and unlicensed workers such as LPNs and aides as needed.
- Continues to learn more nursing theory through self-development such as reading, seminars and practice.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of the theory, principles, and practices of nursing.

Knowledge of the signs and symptoms of a variety of common, well-defined health disorders.

Knowledge of medications, their effects, and their side effects.

Skill in the application of nursing techniques and instruments.

Ability to assess and document physical and psychosocial conditions.

Ability to develop patient care plans.

Ability to motivate patients and their families to practice healthier lifestyle behaviors.

Ability to utilize knowledge of the pathology of prevalent diseases and health problems.

Ability to communicate effectively with patients and their families.

Minimum Qualifications

Training: Successful completion of an associate degree in nursing from an accredited college or university or a diploma nursing program.

Special Requirement: Current West Virginia license or temporary permit to practice as a registered professional nurse.

Established: 7/16/92

Effective: 8/16/92