

NURSE 2

Nature of Work: Under general supervision, performs professional work at the full-performance level providing direct patient care to individuals within structured health care settings, usually within acute, intermediate and long-term care facilities public health clinics, or home health care agencies. Patients are individuals with fairly common and varied health problems who need information or support to regain and maintain health. Work requires preventive, habilitative or rehabilitative interventions. Nursing interventions may be adapted from established nursing practices with predictable outcomes. Works independently with other health professionals; may serve as leader of a nursing team of licensed and unlicensed personnel. May serve as a charge nurse at a less diverse local health department or with shift responsibility for a single nursing unit. Shift work may be required. Travel may be required. Performs related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics: This is experienced nursing where familiarity with the patient population and the community allows the incumbent to quickly identify less routine health problems and to evaluate lifestyle to determine contributing factors. The assessment for the more varied medical problems require the incumbent to utilize additional medical knowledge to complete a patient history for the attending physician.

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 well-defined and varied health problems in a structured setting or patient home.
- Uses established criteria to evaluate patient care; modifies plan of care as necessary and documents changes.
- Carries out the prescribed care according to established nursing practices; contacts physicians to report significant changes in patient health.
- 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 and may supervise other licensed and

unlicensed workers such as contract personnel, LPNs and aides as needed.

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Continues to learn more nursing theory through self-development such as reading, seminars and practice.

Assists new or contract nursing personnel in orientation to agency/facility policy and procedures.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Knowledge of the organization's rules and regulations.

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

Knowledge of the signs and symptoms of a variety of common and acute health disorders.

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

Knowledge of community and other service resources available to patients.

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.

Ability to write narrative reports.

Minimum Qualifications

Training: Successful completion of an associate degree in nursing from an accredited college or university or a diploma nursing program; plus one year of full-time or equivalent part-time paid experience as a registered professional nurse.

OR

Baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited four-college year or university.

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

Established: 7/16/92

Effective: 8/16/92