

Nurse Midwife

Nature of Work: Under limited supervision of a physician, performs specialized professional work at an advanced level by planning, conducting and managing a program of nurse-midwifery in the care of mothers and their babies through the maternity cycle as long as progress meets criteria accepted as normal. Work also includes interconceptional care for family planning, immediate care of the newborn at delivery, and well-child supervision. Performs related work as required.

Examples of Work

Assumes the responsibility for the management of the medically uncomplicated patient throughout the maternity cycle.

Provides primary care in an ambulatory setting to women including ordering and evaluation of diagnostic tests and management of minor complications.

Takes medical history; does physical examinations including clinical pelvimetry, evaluates obstetrical status with clients; consults appropriately with physician, provides and supervises prenatal education.

Performs and evaluates laboratory procedures; evaluates labor status; manages labor and delivery, performing amniotomy and episiotomy where necessary; repairs episiotomies and/or lacerations (may repair 3 degree and 4 degree lacerations if skilled); provides immediate newborn care; consults with physician as necessary.

Manages the puerperium; evaluates the status of mother and infant; assists mother in plans for care for herself and her infant throughout the postpartum period.

Provides family planning education, prescribes oral contraceptives; fits diaphragms.

Provides immediate counseling in sexual/family health.

Participates in patient education programs and furthers continuity of educational concepts into all phases of reproductive health; helps establish patient care services and standards for such care; participates in educational programs and in-services; initiates and participates in research related to nurse-midwifery and allied health fields.

Utilizes programs presented by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) to maintain professional competency, while additionally utilizing resources available from other health care fields.

Participates in ACNM activities on both a national and local level as service commitments permit.

Interprets the midwife's role and function to other staff and the public.

Promotes and maintains an effective working relationship with the health team, clients and the public.

Interprets and recommends departmental policy and revisions affecting the nurse-midwifery service.

Participates in program evaluation relevant to nurse-midwifery.

Collects and tabulates pertinent data and information related to the administration of the birth center and submits to the Director of Obstetrics of such, as required.

Supervises, trains and coordinates birth center staff as requested by the Director of Obstetrics.

Assists other coordinators in maintenance of medical and office equipment and supplies of the birth center.

Assists in the development and revision of protocols and other guidelines for the medical staff.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Working knowledge of the methods, principles and practices of professional nurse-midwifery.

Working knowledge of obstetrical theory and practice.

Knowledge of the organization, services, laws, rules and regulations of federal, state and local health agencies governing public health nursing and specifically the practices of nurse-midwifery.

Skilled in the management of women's health care, particularly pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period, care of the

newborn, and family planning and gynecological needs of essentially healthy women.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with physicians, other medical personnel, patients, families and community organizations.

Ability to plan work schedules within the confines of prescribed programs.

Ability to interview individuals and to teach others in the principles of public health, the prevention of disease, and the nursing care of patients.

Ability to express ideas clearly and concisely orally and in writing.

Minimum Qualifications

Training: Graduation from a program of study approved by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), and completion of the certification process by the ACNM. Current West Virginia license or temporary permit to practice as a registered professional nurse.

Note: After hire, employing agency may require enrollment in Continuing Competencies according to the ACNM guidelines.

Established: 2/27/97

Effective: 4/1/97