

NURSE PRACTITIONER (PUBLIC HEALTH)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is professional nursing work of a responsible nature which involves a responsibility for providing routine examinations, assessments, nursing diagnoses, therapeutic procedures, counseling, management of medical modalities and health education for clients of the Family Planning Clinic of the Department of Health. While the incumbent is expected to exercise initiative and independent judgment, s/he works under standing orders and protocols established by a physician. Supervision by the licensed physician is exercised through conferences, observation of work performance and periodic reports. The Nurse Practitioner may provide supervision to a number of ancillary personnel including a Registered Nurse, Public Health Educator, Senior Nurse's Aide and related clerical personnel. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Performs appropriate health assessment procedures including but not limited to thyroid, heart and lung, breast, abdominal, rectal, extremity and pelvic examinations;

Interprets laboratory data and orders additional appropriate laboratory investigations as indicated;

Records or reviews, interprets and assesses the medical history of Family Planning Clinic patients;

Evaluates patients based on history and examination and implements treatment regimens including contraceptive choice and assistance, instructions and medications under standing orders for nurse practitioners;

Assesses and recommends treatment for common gynecological and related problems such as infections, contraceptive problems, anemia, obesity, etc.;

Refers patients with abnormal conditions or other medical problems to the supervising physician when not covered by standing orders;

Consults with family planning physician regarding any suspected abnormality or pathology detected and makes appropriate medical referrals as needed;

Supervises and/or performs health monitoring of patients periodically or as indicated including venipuncture, blood pressure, weight, tuberculosis screening, urinalysis, etc.;

Provides in-depth counseling concerning specific family planning methods, hygiene, pregnancy, pre-natal and post-partum care, sterilization, sexually-transmissible diseases, diet, nutrition, weight control and various other medical and social conditions on an individual basis;

Manages medical modalities i.e. distributing family planning supplies and medications according to patient assessment and standing medical orders;

Triages and handles all problems at clinics;

Assists in the preparation of the yearly budget as well as assisting in the writing of required reports, and the yearly grant for the Family Planning Program;

Revises clinic policies in response to the nature of the patient caseload and ongoing family planning knowledge and practice and translates same into formal policy and procedure manual;

Maintains, monitors and reviews all patient records for completeness, problem areas and to ensure complete and proper follow-up;

Creates and revises various types of patient literature, referral sheets, hand-out sheets, etc.;

Updates professional knowledge and maintains current certification by attending ongoing educational seminars and courses in the areas of family planning and current nursing practice and by reading professional journals and publications;

May supervise ancillary health personnel in performance of duties at clinics;

May oversee and coordinate clinic flow and function.

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FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of public health nursing as they relate to the Nurse Practitioner; good knowledge of the procedures and equipment used in physical examinations; good knowledge of family planning and contraception; ability to establish and maintain good relationships with others; ability to supervise the work of others; ability to maintain records and make oral and written reports.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A Bachelor's degree or higher in Nursing and satisfactory completion of a Nurse Practitioner course issued by the New York State Department of Education.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Licensure and current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State must be maintained throughout the course of employment in this title.