

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

### NATURE OF WORK

This is highly responsible public health work utilizing physician assistant training to assess the physical and psychosocial health status of individual clients.

Work involves responsibility for assessing client's health needs through a variety of methods including performing a physical examination, and collecting and recording a complete health data base which includes health and developmental history as well as psychosocial characteristics; ordering appropriate laboratory procedures and interpreting the results; and instructing individuals and families in methods of preventive health care practices based on assessed health needs. Work also involves recommending treatment methods within the scope of practice to satisfy assessed health needs; referring clients needing further evaluation and treatment to appropriate sources; and maintaining appropriate client records reflecting treatment provided and client progress. Work is performed under the supervision of a physician who reviews the overall quality and appropriateness of care provided. Supervision may be exercised over subordinate staff.

### EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Assesses the clients' health needs through a variety of methods including performing a physical examination, and collecting and recording a complete health data base which includes health and developmental history as well as psychosocial characteristics.

Orders appropriate laboratory procedures and interprets the results.

Instructs individuals and families in methods of preventive health care practices based on assessed health needs.

Develops and implements treatment plans, within the scope of practice, based on assessment and clinical findings.

Refers clients needing further evaluation and treatment to appropriate sources.

Maintains appropriate client records reflecting treatment provided and client progress.

Performs related work as required.

## DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Considerable knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of providing public health services to individuals and groups.

Considerable knowledge of the principles of disease prevention and control.

Considerable knowledge of the various types of medical tools and equipment utilized in the delivery of public health nursing services.

Considerable knowledge of human service agencies within the community as well as services provided by those agencies.

Considerable knowledge of the current literature and research developments relating to public health.

Ability to examine clients to determine overall health needs.

Ability to recognize symptoms of clinical abnormalities and recommend appropriate treatment to satisfy client's health needs under accepted medical protocol.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, clients and the general public.

Ability to communicate and interpret public health concepts to clients.

Ability to maintain accurate records reflecting health care services provided and client progress.

Skill in the use, operation and maintenance of equipment utilized in the delivery of public health nursing services.

## DESIRABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Graduation from an accredited Physician Assistant Program supplemented by a Master's Degree in public health or related field and experience in the delivery of public health services including some administrative experience.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited Physician Assistant Program supplemented by some experience in the delivery of public health services or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the desirable knowledge, abilities and skills.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Possession of a valid certificate to practice as a Physician Assistant.

Possession of a valid driver's license when operating a vehicle is necessary to the satisfactory performance of assigned duties as deemed necessary by the appointing authority.

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