

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SCIENTIST

NATURE OF WORK

This is highly responsible administrative and professional work directing the operation of the Laboratory Section of the City-County Health Department.

Work involves responsibility for supervising and directing the operation of the Public Health Laboratory. Work also involves the performance of professional laboratory work including water chemistry, water bacteriology, clinical hematology, urinalysis, and clinical bacteriology. An employee of this class is expected to exercise considerable judgment and personal initiative in the development of laboratory procedures and recommendations rendered from analyses performed. Supervision is received from an administrative superior with work being reviewed in the form of reports, conferences, and accuracy of analyses rendered. Supervision is exercised over subordinate professional and para-professional personnel.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Supervises and directs the operation of the laboratory; develops laboratory budget; interviews and hires personnel for the laboratory.

Supervises activities of subordinate laboratory personnel engaged in various laboratory tests, examinations, and analyses.

Plans and develops systems for the application of the physical sciences to public health programs.

Performs various professional laboratory procedures including water bacteriology and chemistry, venereal disease screening, phlebotomy services, electrocardiograms and human body specimen analysis.

Develops and reviews written procedures for all laboratory testing; develops and maintains recordkeeping methods for laboratory procedures, quality control and testing results.

Evaluates and researches new laboratory equipment applications.

Develops and monitors documented quality control procedures for laboratory and equipment; provides annual quality assurance testing for nursing staff collecting specimens for or performing laboratory procedures.

Performs related work as required.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS

Thorough knowledge of the principles and procedures of chemistry, microbiology, bacteriology, and related areas as applied to environmental and clinical laboratory testing.

Thorough knowledge of the current literature and research developments pertaining to environmental testing, clinical testing, and laboratory sciences as a whole.

Thorough knowledge of the use, operation, and care of scientific and standard laboratory equipment.

Ability to make professional and administrative decisions within the framework of department policy and to present ideas concisely and effectively both orally and in writing.

Ability to apply complex scientific laboratory principles and practices to various test, examinations, and analyses.

Ability to plan, assign, and coordinate the work of professional and para-professional laboratory personnel.

Ability to relay complex scientific terminology in lay terms.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with superiors, subordinates, governmental officials, and the general public.

Skill in the operation of specialized laboratory equipment.

DESIRABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with major course work in microbiology, biology, chemistry or related field plus thorough experience as a laboratory technologist which includes considerable experience in clinical laboratory supervision or management or diploma in Laboratory Management Certification or equivalent.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited four year college or university with major course work in microbiology, biology, chemistry or related field plus considerable experience as a laboratory technologist which includes experience in laboratory supervision or management; or any equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the desirable knowledge, abilities and skills.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Technologist certification by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists or an equivalent national certifying agency.

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

Approved by: _____
Department Head

Personnel Director

10/79

Revised: 10/88

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