

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

NATURE OF WORK

This is responsible public health nursing work assessing and providing for individual health needs and promoting community-wide health care.

Work involves providing nurse assessments to clients and populations as a part of a team of medical, psychosocial and public health practitioners; developing, implementing and evaluating an individual, family or population-based care plan to meet specified health needs; and instructing individuals and populations in preventive health care practices. Work may include assisting partners in developing immunization, lead, and sexually transmitted infection testing opportunities; obtaining specimens for laboratory analysis, administering injections, and maintaining health records; working as an equal partner with communities who experience health disparities to develop, implement and evaluate solutions that work for them; presentations to the general public, community agencies, civic organizations, students, and other interested groups on public health topics. Work may also involve home visitation (prenatal, postpartum and newborn care). Work may include contact tracing and monitoring of infectious diseases. Employees in this classification use leadership skills and independent judgment when completing work assignments, but decisions are made in accordance with established practice and departmental policies and procedures. Supervision is received from a supervisor with work being reviewed through established quality control measures.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Provide nursing assessments to individuals and populations such as; pregnant women, postpartum women, newborns and young children at high-risk for adverse health conditions; newly arrived immigrants; adolescents who are at risk for infectious disease; and adults at-risk for adverse health outcomes.

Provides health care to clients based on health care provider orders and general medical direction including monitoring vital signs, obtaining specimens for laboratory analysis, and administering injections.

Provides safe, high-quality, effective and efficient public health nursing case management in home visitation programs.

Provides nursing support for contact tracing and management of infectious diseases.

Assists in the development and the implementation of community screening and education.

Partners with community groups to provide presentations to the general public, community agencies, civic organization, students and other interested groups on public health topics.

Maintains appropriate client records reflecting treatment provided and client status; completes necessary forms and reports.

Performs related work as required.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, AND SKILLS

Considerable knowledge of the principles, practices, and techniques of public health.

Considerable knowledge of the principles of disease prevention and control.

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

Knowledge of the various types of equipment utilized in the delivery of public health nursing services.

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

Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

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

Ability to understand and follow complex oral and written medical instructions.

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

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

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from an accredited baccalaureate degree nursing program with a minimum of one (1) year experience in public health nursing; or any equivalent combination of training and experience that provides the desirable knowledge, abilities, and skills.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Possession of a valid license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Nebraska.

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

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