

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE (ENTEROSTOMAL THERAPY)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position involves the performance of public health nursing activities specializing in Enterostomal Therapy (wound, ostomy and continence care). This includes assessment of health needs as well as developing a plan of care for individuals and families. The incumbent is also responsible for the initial implementation of wound, ostomy and continence care while providing skilled nursing care as well as the periodic re-evaluation of individual and family nursing needs. The work is performed under the general direction of a Supervising Public Health Nurse or other higher level nursing or administrative personnel, with a wide leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out the details of the work. Supervision may be exercised over Medical Assistants, Registered Professional Nurses and Home Health Aides assigned to assist in patient care. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Makes initial assessment, develops and/or amends the care plan for individuals and families in a variety of settings;
Provides wound, ostomy and continence care directly to patients during home visits;
Provides consultation and instruction to nurses in office and on home visits while recommending care and management of patients with wound, ostomy and continence needs;
Provides skilled nursing care and recommends treatments for patients;
Counsels and guides individuals and families toward self-help in recognition and solution of physical, emotional and environmental health problems;
Provides consultation services for complex wound, ostomy and continence care at the Willow Point Nursing Facility;
Develops policies and procedures in the areas of wound, ostomy and continence care at both the Broome County Health Department and at WPNF;
Maintains ongoing communication with community health care professionals to provide education and consultation regarding the care of patients with wound, ostomy and continence needs;
Coordinates plans for service with nutritionists, social workers, physical therapists, physicians and other professional and paraprofessional workers concerned with individual and family health care;
Provides for the continuity of patient care by promoting referral of patients to appropriate community agencies;
Exchanges information with the Health Department staff and discharge planners at various hospitals regarding the admission and discharge of patients;
May supervise Registered Professional Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Medical Assistants, Home Health Aides and other nursing staff;
Provides clinical preceptorship (education and training for nurses) in wound, ostomy and continence care through accredited Enterostomal Therapy Nursing Education Programs (ETNEP);
Presents in service presentations to the Health Department staff;

Teaches classes, addresses groups and participates in community planning related to nursing and health;
Performs diagnostic and developmental tests;
Obtains specimens for various tests;
Maintains agency and nursing care records and reports;
Compiles and uses records, reports and statistical information for the evaluation and planning of assigned programs;
Attends staff meetings and in service training programs;
Administers immunizations, skin tests, medications, etc.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of current public health nursing practices;
Thorough knowledge of wound, ostomy and continence care;
Working knowledge of the administrative organizational structure of community agencies;
Skill in the application of current nursing procedures and techniques of patient care;
Ability to assess, plan, coordinate and provide wound, ostomy and continence care to patients and families;
Ability to oversee nursing personnel assigned to assist with patient care;
Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing;
Ability to manage large volume case loads;
Ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships;
Ability to perform duties in accordance with American Nurses Association Code for Professional Nurses;
Ability to perform close, detail work involving considerable visual effort and strain;
Good judgment;
Empathy;
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in nursing; AND
- B) Licensure and current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State; AND
- C) Current certification as a Certified Enterostomal Therapy Nurse (CETN) or Certified Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurse (CWOCN) as issued by the Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT: Possession of the appropriate level Motor Vehicle Operator's License.