

NURSE PRACTITIONER

DEFINITION

Under the general supervision of a primary care physician, to perform routine medical examinations; to diagnoses and treat common medical conditions; to educate and counsel patients regarding their physical health; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is a journey level Nurse Practitioner classification. Incumbents exercise discretion and independent judgement in providing medical care to patients. Positions work under the guidance of a physician preceptor and within written protocols.

REPORTS TO

Director, Public Health Nursing.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Performs comprehensive health histories and physical examinations, including pelvic examinations; initiates appropriate diagnostic and screening tests; develops diagnoses; initiates treatment based on protocols signed by a consulting physician; records findings of physical and developmental assessment; refers conditions needing specialized treatment; instructs individuals and families regarding skills necessary to maintain or improve health; identifies community resources and guides individuals in their use; assists in developing protocols; maintains liaison with other professionals and agencies providing child/family services; may recommend and dispense appropriate medication and drugs under a physician's protocols.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; lift and move object weighing up to 25 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is usually performed in an office or clinic environment; exposure to communicable diseases; continuous contact with staff and the public.

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Routine diagnostic and treatment techniques used in practicing primary care medicine.
- Ethics and laws under which medicine is practiced.
- Roles and responsibilities of community health care agencies and related health professionals.
- Uses and effects of medicines and narcotics.
- Reproductive physiology.

Ability to:

- Observe and record symptoms and behaviors.
- Diagnose a medical problems and perform therapeutic procedures to solve the problems.
- Conduct physical examinations.
- Collect, organize, record and communicate data relevant to primary health assessments, including detailed family and medical histories, physical examinations, and selected laboratory findings.
- Evaluate medical findings and make suitable recommendations.
- Interpret special screening tests and laboratory findings.
- Work responsibly with physicians and other members of the medical team.
- Effectively represent the Health Department in contacts with the public, community organizations, and other government agencies.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with patients and others.
- Coordinate assigned activities with community organizations and other government agencies.

Training and Experience: Any combination of training and experience which would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required knowledge and abilities would be:

One (1) year of experience as a Nurse Practitioner.

Special Requirements: Possession of a valid license as a Registered Nurse in California and a Certification as a Nurse Practitioner issued by the California State Board of Registered Nurses.

Possession of an appropriate California Driver's License issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

