

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE II

DEFINITION

Under direction, plans, conducts and participates in a variety of public health clinics and services that support the County's public health programs; provides nursing, educational and health counseling services in connection with family planning, the control and prevention of disease, and adverse health conditions; and performs related duties as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the journey level classification in the Public Health Nurse series. This classification is distinguished from the Public Health Nurse I in that incumbents at this level are responsible for independently performing the full range of assigned duties.

REPORTS TO

Higher level management or supervisory staff.

CLASSIFICATIONS SUPERVISED

This classification does not exercise supervision over staff.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

The following are the duties performed by employees in this classification. However, employees may perform other related duties at an equivalent level. Each individual in the classification does not necessarily perform all the duties listed.

Performs a variety of professional nursing duties in support of the County's public health programs; nursing areas may include, but are not limited to clinics, family planning, disease control and prevention, and counseling services; conducts physical examinations; diagnoses and treats (by protocol) certain diseases; investigates and interviews patients and acts to obtain treatment for ill patients; searches for unreported or missed cases of communicable diseases and gives instructions in their prevention and care; assists with the operations of clinics and satellite immunization sites assessing and providing immunizations and family planning services; serves as a patient advocate to assist patients with attaining optimal health care; coordinates health care between patients and care providers; assesses, screens, and provides intervention strategies to high-risk individuals and families in clinics and home visits; instructs parents on child safety, growth, and development and screens for signs of abuse, poor nutrition and failure to thrive; reports abuse of children, elderly or the disabled; acts as "on-call" nurse to receive referrals and provide information; provides case management to

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patients with pulmonary tuberculosis which includes coordination with their physician, monitoring compliance in treatment; screens for tuberculosis by giving and reading skin tests, providing medications and education; participates in patient meetings for "special needs" children; functions in an outreach and education capacity by giving presentations to the public on special health concerns such as AIDS or child health issues; documents treatment given and medications in patients' charts; keeps statistics on a variety of communicable diseases; teaches prenatal care to expectant mothers; works cooperatively with County departments, state and federal agencies and community groups on local health issues; provides education counseling and screening for AIDS; draws blood samples to determine deficiencies or assist with disease diagnosis; makes home visits; meets with health care providers to recruit their participation in health programs; participates in family planning and other department programs; may function as Deputy Director for CHDP program; may work in California Children's Service, Maternal Child Health, Child Health and Disability Programs, or other special programs; participates in Targeted Case Management (TCM) and Medi-Cal Administration Activity (MAA) services.

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 machine.

TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is usually performed in an office or clinic environment or in private home setting; exposure to communicable diseases; continuous contact with staff and the public. Incumbents may be required to drive to remote areas of the County in all weather conditions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles, methods, and procedures of general nursing and public health nursing.
- Operations services and activities of a comprehensive public health system.
- Federal, State and local laws governing the provision of public health services.
- Public health issues and problems.
- Causes, means of transmission, and methods of control of communicable diseases, including venereal disease, AIDS, and tuberculosis.
- Means of promoting child and maternal health and public health programs.
- Sociological and cultural problems involved in public health nursing.
- Community resources and demographics.
- Principles of public health education.

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- State laws relating to reporting Child/Adult abuse.
- Reproductive physiology and child development.
- Human anatomy
- Operations, services and activities of a clinic setting.
- Applicable state and federal guidelines and regulations.

Ability to:

- Provide professional nursing support in assigned program areas.
- Educate and work with patients and their families.
- Read and understand medical information.
- Assess the physical conditions of patients.
- Make oral presentations to local community groups and health care providers.
- Investigate adverse health situations and recommend solutions.
- Maintain confidentiality of material.
- Coordinate assigned activities with community organizations and other government agencies.
- Interview patients and families to gather medical history.
- Draw blood samples.
- Determine appropriate resources for clients and make referral to those agencies.
- 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.
- Understand and carry out oral and written directions.
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Training and Experience:

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

Education

Bachelor's degree in nursing from an accredited college or university and completion of an approved public health nursing program. Public Health Nurse Certificate preferred.

-or-

Graduation from an accredited Nursing Program with a minimum of 5 years of experience providing nursing services in public health programs, clinics or hospital settings serving high risk populations.

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Special Requirements

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