

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE II

DEFINITION

Under direction, to plan and conduct a variety of public health clinics and services; to provide nursing, educational and health counseling services in connection with the control and prevention of disease and adverse health conditions. Coordinates client and community services to support goals of the Agency and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the experienced, journey level in the Public Health Nurse class series. Assignments are performed on a relatively independent basis. This class is distinguished from Public Health Nurse I by the requirement of work experience and background in public health nursing. Incumbents may be responsible for directing a specific public health program on a County wide basis, or serving as a coordinator for various State health programs at the County level.

REPORTS TO

Director of Nursing and Public Health Nurse III.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

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EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- 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.
- 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.
- Acts as "on-call" nurse to receive referrals and provide information.
- Provide case management to patients with pulmonary tuberculosis which includes coordination with their physician, monitoring compliance in treatment.
- Screens for contacts to tuberculosis by giving and reading TB 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 with community groups on local health issues.
- Provides education counseling and screening for confidential testing.
- 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.

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(Examples of duties continued)

- May function as Coordinator for the CHDP, MCAH, or other special health program.
- May administer special grant programs.
- May serve on task forces.
- Assists with the development of policies and procedures for programs.
- Gathers and assesses statistical data, reporting information to appropriate agencies.
- Learns to investigate and interview patients to determine health needs.
- Acts to obtain treatment for ill patients.

Serves as a patient advocate to assist patients with attaining optimal health care.
Learns to coordinate health care between patients and care providers.
Learns to assess, screen, and provide intervention strategies to high-risk individuals and families in clinics and home visits.
Learns to instruct parents on child safety, growth, and development and screen for signs of abuse, poor nutrition and failure to thrive.
Participates in patient meetings for "special needs" children.
Teaches prenatal care to expectant mothers.
Learns to work with community groups on local health issues.
Participates in family planning and other department programs.

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 or in private home setting; exposure to communicable diseases; continuous contact with staff and the public. Incumbents may be required to drive in remote areas of the County in all weather conditions.

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Principles, methods, and procedures of general nursing and public health nursing.
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 STD's, 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 demography.
Principles of public health education.
State laws relating to reporting Child/Adult abuse.

Reproductive physiology and child development.

Ability to:

Educate and work with patients and their families.

Communicate effectively orally and in writing.

Follow oral and written instructions.

Assess the physical conditions of patients.

Make oral presentations to local community groups and health care providers.

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.

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(Ability to: continued)

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.

Training and Experience:

Required qualifications for this position:

Two (2) years of nursing experience equivalent to Public Health Nurse I with Plumas County.

Graduation from an accredited college or university and completion of an approved public health nursing program.

Special Requirements:

- Possession of a valid license as a Registered Nurse in California and a Certificate as a Public Health Nurse issued by the California State Board of Registered Nursing.
- Possession of a valid California Driver's License.

All County of Plumas employees are designated Disaster Service Workers through State law (California Government Code Section 3100-3109). Employment with Plumas County requires the affirmation of a loyalty oath to this effect. Employees are Required to complete all Disaster Service Work related training as assigned, and to return to work as ordered in the event of an emergency.