

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE I

DEFINITION

Under direction, to learn to plan and conduct a variety of public health clinics and services; to provide basic 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 entry and first working level in Public Health Nurse class series. Incumbents must have requisite public health nursing certification, but need only limited public health nursing work experience. Initially, assignments are performed under relative close guidance and supervision. As experience is gained, incumbents work with greater independence. When requisite training and background has been gained, incumbents may expect promotion to Public Health Nurse II. The class differs from the Registered Nurse I and II classifications by requiring the possession of a Public Health Nurse License.

REPORTS TO

Director of Nursing or Public Health Nurse II/III

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

LVN I/II, RN I/II

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EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Learns the performance of Public Health Nurse assignments and services.
Conducts physical examinations.
Assists with diagnosis and treatment (by protocol) of certain diseases.
Learns to investigate and interview patients to determine health needs.
Acts to obtain treatment for ill patients.
Learns to search for unreported or missed cases of communicable diseases and give 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.
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.
When requisite experience is obtained, acts as "on-call" nurse to receive referrals
And provide information.
Learns and performs case management techniques and methods.
Screens for contacts to tuberculosis by giving and reading TB skin tests, providing medications and education.
Participates in patient meetings for "special needs" children.
Learns to make public presentations on health issues and needs.
Documents treatment given and medications in patients' charts.
Keeps statistics on a variety of communicable diseases.
Teaches prenatal care to expectant mothers.
Learns to work 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.
Draws blood samples to determine deficiencies or assist with disease diagnosis.
Makes home visits.

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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.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Principles, methods, and procedures of general nursing and public health nursing.
Public health issues and problems.
Causes, means of transmission, and methods of control of communicable diseases,
including sexually transmitted infections, 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.
Reproductive physiology and child development.

Ability to:

Learn 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.

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Ability to (continued):

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.
Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with patients and others.

Training and Experience:

Required qualifications for the position:

Some nursing experience in a public health setting is highly desirable.

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.