

REGISTERED NURSE I – PUBLIC HEALTH

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, to assist with coordination and participate in a variety of Public health clinics and services; to perform activities related to implementation of various health programs; to interview, educate, counsel, and refer clients regarding a variety of health conditions. Coordinates client and community services to support goals of the Agency and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Incumbents in the Registered Nurse class series do not have the necessary education, experience, or license requirements to qualify as a Public Health Nurse. Incumbents assist with the planning and conduct of nursing assessments, direct patient care, home visits, and health education. Incumbents at the Registered Nurse I level are performing many assignments in a training and learning capacity. They work under closer Supervision than Registered Nurse II's. When the requisite background and experience have been obtained, an incumbent may be promoted to Registered Nurse II.

REPORTS TO

Director of Nursing or Public Health Nurse II or III.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None.

REGISTERED NURSE I - 2

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

Assist with planning and organizing clinical activities.
Assists with the operation of clinics and satellite immunization sites, performing immunizations.
Performs, reads, and evaluates skin tests.
Interviews and elicits medical history from clients.
Assists with screening of patients for special medical assistance programs.
Assists with "on-call" nursing functions.
Evaluates patients on the basis of history and tests, making appropriate referrals to medical and community resources.
Performs confidential testing and counseling.
Works with community agencies to promote wellness.
Performs activities such as dipstick urine tests, drawing of blood, and blood pressure screening, and giving injections.
Documents all activities in patients' charts; prepares a variety of reports.
May teach health education classes as assigned.
Prepares reports.
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.

REGISTERED NURSE I – 3

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.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Principles, methods, and procedures of general nursing and public health nursing.
Causes, means of transmission, and methods of controlling communicable diseases.
Disease processes and the mechanisms to prevent and control them.
Health problems and requirements of infant, children, adolescent, and adult clients.
State laws relating to reporting Child/Adult abuse.

Ability to:

Communicate effectively orally and in writing.
Follow oral and written instructions.
Assess the physical condition of patients.
Maintain confidentiality of material.
Interview patients and families to gather medical history.
Counsel clients and make referrals to community resources.
Draw blood samples for laboratory testing.
Administer immunizations.

REGISTERED NURSE I – 4

Ability to: (continued)

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 this position:

One (1) years of general nursing experience.

The completion of nursing studies and curriculum sufficient to obtain requisite licenses from the State of California.

Special Requirements:

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