

NURSE PRACTITIONER

DEFINITION

Under the general direction, to provide direct patient care to clinic patients; to conduct physical exams and evaluate the need for treatment or other services; 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 judgment in providing medical care to patients. Positions work under the guidance of a physician preceptor and within written protocols.

REPORTS TO

Public Health Director, Director of Public Health Nursing.

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None

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EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- Performs comprehensive health histories and physical examinations.
- Initiates appropriate diagnostic and screening tests.
- Prepares laboratory cultures and smears.
- Develops diagnoses.
- Performs lab testing including HIV and pregnancy testing.
- Initiates treatments based on protocols signed by the Health Officer.
- Assists with protocol development.
- May represent the Public Health Department with community organizations and on community boards.
- Prepares reports and correspondence. Records findings of physical and developmental assessment.
- Refers conditions needing specialized treatment.
- Counsels clients regarding family planning, sterilization, pregnancy, HIV, and other health problems.
- Instructs individuals and families regarding skills necessary to maintain or improve health.
- Identifies community resources and guides individuals in their use.
- 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:

- Principles, procedures, and techniques of public health nursing.
- Causes, treatment, and prevention of communicable diseases.
- Community resources and community aspects of nursing programs.
- Current trends and concepts related to professional nursing practice.
- Sociological, psychological, and physical problems involved in public health nursing.
- Ethics and laws under which medicine is practiced.
- Roles and responsibilities of community health care agencies and related health professionals.
- Federal, State, and local laws and regulations related to public health nursing.
- Routine diagnostic and treatment techniques used in practicing primary care medicine.
- Uses and effects of medicines and narcotics.

Ability to:

- Observe and record symptoms and behaviors.
- Diagnose 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.
- Perform and interpret special screening tests and laboratory findings.
- Work responsibly with physicians and other members of the medical team.
- Instruct others in the prevention of disease and the principles of health and nursing care.
- Prepare and assist others with the preparation of specialized education programs.
- Speak and write effectively.
- Prepare clear and concise records and reports.
- Effectively represent the Health Department in contacts with the public, community organizations, and other government agencies.
- Coordinate assigned activities with community organizations and other government agencies.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with patients and others.
- Evaluate medical findings and make suitable recommendations

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Training and Experience:

Qualification needed for the position:

- Completion of nursing studies and curriculum sufficient to obtain requisite licenses from the State of California and two (2) years of experience as a Nurse Practitioner.
- 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.
- CPR and First Aid certification.

Special Requirements:

- Must possess a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid California Driver's License by the time of appointment. The valid California License must be maintained throughout employment.
- 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.