

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

DEFINITION

Under general direction, to provide direct care services to clinic patients; to conduct physical examinations and evaluate the need for treatment or other services; to counsel and educate patients regarding their physical health; and to do related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is a journey level Physician Assistant 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.
- Performs lab testing including HIV and pregnancy testing.
- Develops diagnoses.
- Initiates treatment based on protocols signed by the Health Officer.
- 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.
- Assists in developing protocols.
- Maintains liaison with other professionals and agencies providing child/family services.
- May recommend and dispense appropriate medication and drugs under a physician's protocols.
- May represent the Public Health Department with community organizations and on community boards.

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:

- Routine diagnostic and treatment techniques used in practicing primary care medicine.
- Ethics and laws under which medicine is practiced.
- Roles and responsibilities of community health care agencies and related health professionals.
- Uses and effects of medicines and narcotics.
- Current trends and concepts related to professional physician assistant practice.
- Causes, treatment, and prevention of communicable diseases.

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.
- Evaluate medical findings and make suitable recommendations.
- Perform and interpret special screening tests and laboratory findings.
- 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.
- Coordinate assigned activities with community organizations and other government agencies.

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Training and Experience:

Qualifications needed for this position:

- Completion of a curriculum and graduation from a school approved by the Physician's Assistant Examining Committee and one (1) year of experience as a Physician Assistant.
- National Board of Medical Examiners Physician's Assistant Certificate.
- Individual approval of a Physician's Assistant practice by the California Physician's Assistant examining committee.
- 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.