

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

FUNCTION OF THE JOB

Under supervision to perform assessments, planning, implementation, and evaluation through a broad range of community public health nursing services and to perform other duties as required.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Conducts and participates in epidemiological investigations and implements control measures to prevent the spread of communicable diseases according to prescribed protocols.
2. Provides case management services to individuals and families by assessing specific individual and family physical, mental, and environmental needs, identifying appropriate resources and coordinate services with other community providers as well as providing individual treatment and care.
3. Provides public health nursing services at clinic such as vaccinations, health screenings, and physical assessments and within established medical orders and agency protocols identifies abnormal findings and makes referrals as appropriate.
4. Meets with clients in a home or community settings to provide health assessments, health screenings, and health education to community resources, and the monitoring of medication compliance.
5. Assesses community physical and mental health needs and identifies resources to remediate those needs.
6. Functions as a public health resource on various public health issues and programs by providing information and guidance to health care providers, schools, community groups, and other health and human service related agencies.
7. Interprets Health & Human Services programs and other County services to clients, families, and community organizations.
8. Teaches and supervises the family in giving health care to clients.
9. Identifies present and potential health needs and resources related to the total health of individuals, families, and the community.
10. Provides information to management for the development and operation of public health programs.
11. Participates in surveys, studies, surveillance, and data collection on various public health issues.
12. Performs data entry into electronic records and other databases, data searches, reporting, and other functions using various computer systems.
13. Participates as assigned in County disaster plans.
14. Assist with the orientation and guidance of new staff.
15. May be assigned to function as a lead worker, mentor or clinic charge nurse for department professional and paraprofessional staff, programs, or clinics.
16. Keeps accurate comprehensive records and makes comprehensive reports.
17. Establishes and maintains effective working relations with the recipients of services, other employees, and the general public.
18. Act as a first responder in a natural disaster or any public health, chemical, biological, nuclear, or radiological event.
19. Performs other duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Essential Knowledge and Abilities

1. Comprehensive knowledge of the principles and practices of nursing, including public health nursing, and core functions of public health.

QUALIFICATIONS

Essential Knowledge and Abilities (continued)

2. Considerable knowledge of preventive health care, including the prevention and control of communicable diseases.
3. Considerable knowledge of the laws regulating the confidentiality of client information.
4. Working knowledge of computerized department program software including electronic health record, internet access and database, spreadsheet, and word processing programs.
5. Ability to make a comprehensive assessment of the health status of clients and families.
6. Ability to demonstrate clinical nursing skills such as venous and capillary blood draws, specimen collection, place and read TB skin tests, immunization administration, pelvic exams, all system physical assessment, fluoride varnishing, proficiency testing, and interpretation of lab results.
7. Ability to use critical thinking skills.
8. Ability to recognize and respond to life threatening emergencies.
9. Ability to explain and interpret laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to public health nursing.
10. Ability to detect and identify symptoms of communicable diseases.
11. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with the recipients of services, other employees, and the general public.
12. Ability to effectively interact with sensitivity with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, racial, ethnic, and professional backgrounds, and persons of all ages and lifestyles.
13. Ability to communicate with non-English speaking individuals utilizing a translator or other contracted translation services.
14. Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
15. Ability to keep accurate and comprehensive records and make reports.
16. Ability to respond to a public health outbreak or an emergency government public health disaster situation.
17. Ability to work in an enclosed environment wearing personal protective equipment.

Training and Experience

1. Graduation from a recognized college or university with a bachelor's of science degree in nursing.
2. Current State of Wisconsin licensure as a registered nurse.
3. Valid driver's license.