

## NURSE PRACTITIONER I

### NATURE AND VARIETY OF WORK

This is entry level specialized professional community health nursing work providing direct primary care, comprehensive nursing, therapeutic and preventive health care services in an expanded nurse role as a nurse practitioner to individuals, families and groups.

Work is done in accordance with the Maryland Nurse Practice Act Code of Maryland Regulations: Practice of the Nurse Practitioner.

A Nurse Practitioner is a registered nurse (R.N.) who has advanced education and clinical training in a health care specialty area. Such specialty areas include, but are not limited to: Adult Health; Family Health; Geriatrics; Pediatrics; Psychiatric; School Health; Women's/Ob-Gyn Health (Mid-wife).

Incumbents in this class are responsible for providing care to clients by assessing health status, performing physical examinations, providing treatment, prescribing medications, recommending follow-up care and making referrals to appropriate health professionals. In addition, the incumbent provides health teaching, counseling and guidance to patients and their families. Work is performed under the direction of a higher level nurse who provides administrative and professional nursing supervision and under the direction of a physician with whom a joint formal written agreement has been signed.

Work requires making decisions concerning interpretation of considerable data such as physical/psychiatric examinations and laboratory reports. The employee's work is reviewed through records, reports, conferences and observation.

Upon the satisfactory completion of a one (1) year probationary period, entry level incumbents may be non-competitively promoted to the II full performance level at Managements' discretion.

### EXAMPLES OF WORK (ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY)

Obtains a comprehensive health history from patient or family, records findings and makes critical evaluation of patient health status.

Performs a detailed examination and assessment on patients and discriminates between normal and abnormal findings.

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Evaluates and reviews findings with physician and decides which patients need additional care either within or outside the scope of Health Department services.

Identifies and manages acute and chronic illness in accordance with established medical protocols.

Provides emergency care or crisis intervention in the absence of the physician.

Provides follow-up care of clients who have been diagnosed and treated by the physician and referred to the nurse practitioner.

Formulates and implements plan of care which may involve various forms of treatment and prescribed medications; recommends follow-up care and makes referrals as needed.

Maintains current clinical and nursing records.

Serves as a consultant to other health care providers.

#### KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Knowledge of nursing and public health theories and practices required to provide community health nursing care to individuals, families and the community.

Knowledge of practitioner theory and the ability to provide competent, technical and direct care.

Knowledge of selected pharmaceuticals, their desired effects, side effects and complications which may arise from their use.

Knowledge of and the ability to screen for and diagnose health problems.

Skill in operating medical and nursing equipment, e.g., stethoscope, blood pressure apparatus, ophthalmoscope, otoscope, percussion hammer.

Ability to take medical histories, conduct physical examinations using palpation, percussion, observation and auscultations skills, and interpret results of selected laboratory tests.

Ability to evaluate health histories, results of examinations, and to identify deviations from norm.

Ability to gain cooperation of individuals and groups in order to provide instruction, counseling, education and health guidance.

Ability to maintain complete records of patients services.

Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

Willingly and cooperatively performs related duties and responsibilities which may not be specifically listed in the job description, but are within the general occupational category and responsibility level typically associated with employee's class of work.

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Graduation from a National League for Nursing accredited college or university or an equivalent program as determined by the Maryland State Board of Nursing examiners with a Bachelors Degree in nursing and or a Masters Degree in public health, community health nursing or other appropriate nursing specialty plus successful completion of a Nurse Practitioner Program; an equivalent combination of education and experience may be substituted for the Master's Degree, but not for the successful completion of a Nurse Practitioner Program.

#### CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Possession of a current license to practice as a Registered Nurse and certification as Nurse Practitioner in the State of Maryland issued by the Maryland State Board of Nursing.

Possession of a valid motor vehicle operator's license when required for job-related duties.

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