

Class Code: 2738
Occ. Area: 01
Work Area: 442
Prom. Line: none
Prob. Period: 6 mo.
Effective Date: 02/01/08
Last Action: Rev.

PSYCHIATRIC AND MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

Function of Job

Under direction from the director of nursing and staff psychiatrist, to provide direct psychiatric and mental health nursing care for patients.

Characteristic Duties and Responsibilities

1. performs mental and physical nursing assessments of patients
2. provides consultation and in-service training on psychiatric and mental health nursing to staff of the health care facility
3. participates in staff meetings and in-service education of nursing and medical staff
4. monitors patients' use of psychotropic medications by evaluating medications' effectiveness in controlling symptoms and observing for side effects
5. orders, adjusts, and regulates medications under physician's direction
6. participates with other members of the institution and community in assessing, planning, implementing, and evaluating mental health services and community systems
7. orders laboratory tests under physician's direction
8. screens patients having psychiatric problems requiring differentiated psychiatric and nursing diagnoses and initiates appropriate referrals
9. assesses social history in determining environmental factors (such as stress) that might contribute to mental illness
10. plans required medical therapy and appropriate nursing intervention under the direction of a physician
11. consults with psychiatrist, other physicians, director of nursing, and laboratories and hospitals regarding use and dosage of psychotropic medications prescribed to patients
12. records findings of interventions on patient's chart
13. educates patients regarding diagnosis and treatment plan, including side effects of prescribed medications
14. counsels patients to evaluate effectiveness of planned care
15. performs other related duties as assigned

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE QUALIFICATIONS

CREDENTIALS TO BE VERIFIED BY PLACEMENT OFFICER

1. Licensure as a Registered Professional Nurse in Illinois with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Professional Regulation.
2. Two years of full-time professional work experience in direct psychiatric and mental health nursing.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE JOB

None