

Psychiatric Nurse

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position works as a member of a multi-disciplinary clinical treatment team providing a total therapy program individually tailored for persons with mental hygiene needs. Incumbents serve as the medical and psychiatric nursing care specialists on a treatment team in consulting with and advising team members; coordinating treatment efforts with program staff and contractual providers; developing and carrying out a treatment plan for a caseload of clients. This position is distinguished from other Registered Professional Nurse positions by its role as a primary nursing care specialist to a caseload of mentally ill, chemically dependent or developmentally disabled clients and families in a mental hygiene setting. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Conducts independent mental status, assessment for need for treatment, risk, and lethality assessments, diagnostic impressions and provides recommendations regarding level of care and need for hospitalization;
- Independently triages cases based on clinical need, risk and acuity for initial evaluation and for follow-up by program staff and by contractual prescribers;
- Prepares, implements and evaluates clinical treatment plans for follow-up of identified needs;
- Identifies and follows-up on referrals to the mental health program;
- Conducts initial and follow-up clinical evaluation and intervention;
- Provides therapy and psycho education to individuals regarding mental illness and medications, consultation regarding personal coping, wellness, safety, and crisis intervention;
- Follows audit readiness guidelines and completes charting and documentation for each face-to-face contact and each client related phone contact with collaterals;
- Works with a computerized database or electronic record to produce reports and charting;
- Processes, tracks, and follows-up on requests for mental hygiene evaluations, coordinates with and on behalf of department administration, with other county personnel and mental health contractors and agencies;
- Coordinates with hospitals and other facilities for emergency or planned transfer and continuity of clinical care;
- Works to verify medications that individuals have taken previously, follows-up and coordinates with other medical staff to ensure continuity of care in the administration of prescribed medications;
- Assists mental health physicians/prescribers in the examination of patients and to triage cases, and posts and follows-up on medical orders in a timely fashion;
- Works as a mental health services team member with Social Workers, Mental Hygiene Practitioners, discharge and/or transitional case managers, other RN's, and the program supervisor;
- Actively participates in staff meetings;
- Refers individuals as appropriate to other services and provides information for community based services upon discharge.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of principals, procedures, and techniques of current professional nursing practices; good knowledge of mental health, drug abuse, and alcohol issues; good knowledge of and understanding of human behavior; working knowledge of the needs of patients and services available in a mental hygiene setting; good communication and writing skills; skill in the application of current nursing procedures and techniques of patient care in a mental hygiene setting; skill in the application of current mental health clinical procedures and techniques of crisis intervention; basic computer skills; ability to recognize the needs of patients in a mental hygiene setting; ability to provide instructions to clients regarding mental health care; ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; good judgment; tact; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

One (1) year of paid experience in a mental hygiene program such as mental health, developmental disabilities, alcohol or substance abuse related services, aging services working with alzheimers and dementia, or hospice type services working with depression and grief.

NOTE: Part-time experience will be prorated towards meeting the above qualification.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: License and current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in New York State.