CLASS TITLE: PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE II

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the direction of an assigned supervisor, provide a variety of professional public health services, educational activities and health counseling related to the identification, treatment, prevention and control of illness, disease and other medical conditions; monitor, evaluate and provide nursing care, counseling or recommendations for health services in response to health problems in an assigned geographical area.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

The Public Health Nurse II is the advanced level classification in the series. Incumbents work with a high degree of independence and require thorough knowledge of assigned public health programs and services. The Public Health Nurse I is the entry-level classification in the series. Incumbents work under close supervision and provide a variety of public health services related to the identification, treatment, prevention and control of illness, disease and other medical conditions.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

Provide a variety of professional public health services related to the prevention and control of diseases or adverse health conditions; develop and implement nursing care plans for assigned patients; evaluate effectiveness of care provided to assigned patients and adjust treatment activities as appropriate.

Identify the health problems of an assigned geographical area by monitoring health problems revealed in clinics, homes and community contacts; evaluate health problems and provide nursing care, counseling or recommendations for appropriate health services such as health clinic sessions, or medical, sanitary or social worker involvement.

Screen and evaluate the medical conditions of patients; examine patients and identify illnesses, injuries and other medical problems; provide treatment and administer first aid as needed; develop and implement treatment plans; provide case management for families with various medical problems.

Provide counseling and technical assistance to the public concerning assigned health services; respond to inquiries and provide detailed information concerning related issues, treatments, medications, immunizations, standards, practices, policies and procedures.

Provide nursing services to individuals in homes and demonstrate proper nursing care and related techniques, practices and procedures to family members or other care providers; assist individuals and families in implementing physician recommendations.

Counsel and provide educational information and resources to individuals, families and groups regarding specific diseases, medical conditions and health maintenance,
promotions and rehabilitation to assist the public with obtaining and maintaining optimal health.

Utilize physical, emotional and social assessments to identify new and early cases of physical and emotional illness; assess health and psychosocial needs of individuals and families; assist individuals and families in identifying appropriate interventions for enhancing health.

Coordinate and collaborate with other health personnel, agencies and resources in providing nursing and health services; refer patients and families to appropriate community resources for needed health services.

Assist physicians and others with examinations; collect urine and blood for laboratory analysis; measure blood pressure, weight and height as needed; screen patients for vision and hearing problems.

Participate in epidemiological investigations to identify individuals with infectious diseases; encourage or assure proper treatment for diseases as needed; counsel individuals concerning needed examinations, treatment and preventative measures.

Provide educational information to clients and the public regarding communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, STD’s and rabies; provide treatment for communicable diseases in accordance with physician and standing orders and instructions.

Participate in the operation of public health clinics by interviewing and counseling patients, performing diagnostic tests and physical assessments, providing prescribed treatments, administering or dispensing medication, recording data, and making necessary referrals.

Participate in a variety of promotional activities to facilitate and enhance public awareness of health issues, programs, services, goals, objectives and information; promote maternal and child health as required.

Compile information and prepare and maintain various records and reports related to patients, treatment, immunizations and assigned activities; prepare a variety of mandated forms and documentation.

Administer childhood and adult immunizations; determine and administer immunizations required for infants, children, adults, seniors and travelers to foreign countries; assist with influenza clinics and mass prophylaxis as directed.

Assess child health, growth, development and nutritional status; provide case management for children with medical disabilities.

Train and provide work direction and guidance to assigned personnel; assign employee duties and review work to assure compliance with established standards, requirements and procedures.

Communicate with personnel, various outside agencies and the public to exchange information and resolve issues or concerns.

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Operate standard office equipment including a computer and assigned software; utilize a variety of medical instruments and equipment; drive a vehicle to conduct work.

Assess the health conditions of senior citizens as assigned; advise parents and senior citizens of intervention methods for preventing accidents; detect child, dependent adult, senior and spouse abuse and provide appropriate interventions as directed.

Monitor and maintain adequate inventory levels of medical supplies; order, receive and assure proper storage of supplies.

Attend in-service training sessions regarding current medical and nursing practices as directed.

Assist in coordinating the emergency medical plan with other agencies in case of earthquake, flood, bio-terrorism, epidemic, pandemic, or other disasters.

OTHER DUTIES:
Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

KNOWLEDGE OF:
Principles, techniques and methods applicable to public health nursing.
Diagnostic methods for illnesses, injuries and medical emergencies.
General practices, procedures, equipment and techniques involved in the identification, treatment and resolution of health problems.
Communicable disease causes, means of transmission and control methods.
Accepted techniques and equipment used for screenings and immunizations.
Local, State and federal laws and regulations governing public health.
Principles and methods used in promoting health and wellness and preventing disease and disability.
Community resources and their functions related to public health nursing.
Principles of rehabilitation, mental health, child growth and maternal health applicable to nursing.
Environmental, sociological, psychological and cultural issues related to public health nursing.
Use and effects of medicine.
Record-keeping and report writing techniques.
Oral and written communication skills.
Interpersonal skills using tact, patience and courtesy.
Operation of a computer and assigned software.
Health and safety regulations.
Technical aspects of field of specialty.

ABILITY TO:
Provide a variety of professional public health services, educational activities and health counseling related to the identification, treatment, prevention and control of illness, disease and other medical conditions.
Monitor, evaluate and provide nursing care, counseling or recommendations for health

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services in response to health problems in an assigned geographical area screen. Screen and evaluate medical conditions and provide treatment, immunizations and various other services to the public. Evaluate effectiveness of care provided to assigned patients and adjust treatment activities as needed. Provide nursing services to individuals in homes and demonstrate proper nursing care and related techniques, practices and procedures to family members or other care providers. Participate in epidemiological investigations to identify individuals with infectious diseases. Assist in facilitating the prevention and control of communicable diseases through health education. Refer patients and families to appropriate community resources for recommended health services. Operate a variety of specialized medical equipment. Maintain records and prepare reports. Operate a computer and assigned software. Meet schedules and time lines. Plan and organize work. Work independently with little direction. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing. Establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Any combination equivalent to: bachelor's degree in nursing or closely related field and one year experience providing professional nursing services.

LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Valid Registered Nurse license issued by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Incumbents must obtain a Valid California State Public Health Nurse Certificate within six months of employment. Valid California driver’s license.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

ENVIRONMENT:
Health care and clinical environment. Driving a vehicle to conduct work.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:
Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate specialized equipment and a computer keyboard. Sitting and standing for extended periods of time. Hearing and speaking to exchange information. Seeing to read a variety of materials and examine patients. Bending at the waist, kneeling or crouching. Reaching overhead, above the shoulders and horizontally.

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Lifting, carrying, pushing or pulling moderately heavy objects as assigned by the position.

HAZARDS:
Contact with blood and other body fluids.
Potential for contact with blood borne pathogens and communicable diseases.