

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: A Community Mental Health Nurse is a registered professional nurse who works as a member of a treatment team providing a therapy program tailored to the individual needs of mentally ill or developmentally disabled clients in the community or in a day treatment center. Incumbents of this position will coordinate treatment efforts with community health or related services. Duties will also include carrying out a treatment plan for a caseload of clients, either in the community or in a day treatment program. Work is performed under some supervision, with a wide leeway for independently carrying out prescribed nursing care and treatment activities.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: *The typical work activities listed below, while providing representative examples of the variety of work assignments in the title, do not describe any individual position. Incumbents in this title may perform some or all of the following, as well as other related activities not described.*

Attends treatment team meetings and provides clinical interpretations of medical examinations and diagnoses, medications prescribed, and other aspects of the treatment plan concerned with nursing care;

Instructs team members in first aid procedures, possible side effects of medications and treatments, and identifying signs and symptoms indicating possible physical or mental relapses;

May interview family members to confirm and expand on the knowledge of a client's mental history, environmental background, and other relevant information;

Carries out prescribed treatments, administers and dispenses medications, instructs clients and their families on the proper use, dosages, and possible side effects of medication taken, and

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observes clients physical and emotional status;

Teaches and counsels clients and their families in support of the total treatment plan on how to cope with emergency situations and the availability of medical, mental health, and social service agencies in the community;

Arranges referrals to appropriate health care providers for the client;

Makes appointments, transmits health history, and may escort client to the appointment;

Records observations and actions taken, such as achievement or lack of achievement of treatment objectives, nursing care given, medications and treatments given, and reactions to treatments and medications;

Administers prescribed medications and treatments to client, and observes reactions to such procedures that require training and skills of a registered nurse;

Takes and records clients' vital signs to detect deviations from the normal;

Provides the nursing care component of clients' treatment plan through such services as health teaching, health counseling, and care supportive to or restorative of life and well-being, including personal hygiene, self-care activities, etc.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARAC-

TERISTICS: Good knowledge of professional nursing principles and techniques as applied in a community mental health agency; good knowledge of medical terminology, sanitation, and personal hygiene; good knowledge of emergency treatments as appropriate; working knowledge of the

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services offered by community health care or social service organizations; working knowledge of abnormal signs and symptoms relating to physical and emotional health; working knowledge of commonly used medications and drugs, dosages, and side effects; ability to understand and follow technical oral and written instructions; ability to keep records and make reports; ability to get along well with clients, physicians, and other individuals and agencies in the community; ability to carry out successfully the therapeutic measures prescribed; ability to give support, comfort and reassurance to clients; good observation; mental alertness; initiative; patience; and emotional stability.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Possession of a license issued by the State of New York to practice as a Registered Nurse, and either:

- (A) Possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing; or
- (B) Graduation from a three-year school of professional nursing and six (6) months of experience in professional nursing activities; or
- (C) Possession of an Associate's Degree in Nursing and eighteen (18) months of experience in professional nursing activities.

NOTE: Your degree or credits must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education. If your degree or credits were awarded by an educational institution outside of the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies who provide this service can be found on the Internet at: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. You must pay the required evaluation fee.

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Public Hearing: N/A
NYS Civil Service Commission Approval: N/A

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