

NURSE PRACTITIONER (PSYCHIATRIC)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: An employee in this class is responsible for providing psychiatric nurse practitioner services with advanced knowledge of psychopharmacology and prescriptive authority or psychotropic medications for clients of the Community Mental Health Agency. The incumbent must possess the clinical skills to exercise independent professional judgment as a medical provider within the guidelines of agreements and protocols. Work is performed under the general direction of the Director of Community Mental Health Services and Psychiatrist. Supervision may be exercised over the work of professional clinical staff, and non-medical personnel.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only) Provides primary psychiatric diagnostic services; Assesses the need for medication therapy and prescribes psychotropic medication and issues prescriptions for same; Oversees and prescribes for medication clinics, particularly for individuals who are seriously and persistently mentally ill; Provides independent individuals, group, and family psychotherapy as needed; Obtains detailed medical histories of patients to systematically collect data on client background, physical and mental condition, medications, treatments and other pertinent information; Provides assessment of the mental health and physical status of the individual; Orders routine laboratory tests, such as CBC, blood chemistry, urinalysis, serology, etc.; Devise plans of patient care; Collaborates with the physician in the delineation of standard treatment regimens that will guide the Nurse Practitioner in the management of individual health programs; Ensures that quality routine health services are provided for patients; Interprets health and mental hygiene laws governing control of communicable diseases and enforces exclusion and readmission policy concerning infectious or contagious diseases that affect the agency, staff, and its clients; May develop and implement in-service training programs as needed for which the Nurse Practitioner is qualified; Supervision of staff as assigned.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL

CHARACTERISTICS: Thorough knowledge of the principles, methods, procedures, and practices of the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner; Thorough knowledge of both the psychological and medical aspects of mental illness and the appropriate use of psychopharmacology and psychotherapy; Good knowledge of community resources which includes availability of services, scope of services rendered, and how to use them effectively; Ability to prescribe psychotropic medications; Ability to work effectively with others within the agency as well as between community agencies; Ability to organize, direct and coordinate clinical services in a mental health program; Ability to prepare technical and informational data for administrative use; Ability to provide professional leadership of a high order; Ability to analyze and evaluate reports of staff workers and make sound decisions; Ability to plan day to day activities as well as develop short term plans; Ability to supervise the work of clinical staff; Ability to organize and operate a program of orientation for new staff and training of students in the area of clinical practices as they relate to community mental health; Ability to support and encourage on-going professional growth of staff; tact and courtesy; integrity; good judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Graduation from high school or possession of an appropriate equivalency diploma recognized by the NYS Department of Education, AND Graduation from a NYS Certified Nurse Practitioner Program AND Certification as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse or Nurse Practitioner.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Possession of license and current registration to practice as a Registered Professional Nurse in NYS.

Possession of a certificate to practice as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner in NYS as specified in Section 6910 of NYS Education Law.

Adopted: 5/26/17

Reviewed 8/5/21