

## Advanced Practice Provider II

This is intermediate level professional work in a specialized or general patient area. As an employee in this role, the Advanced Practice Provider (APP) has received specialized training to function within a multidisciplinary configuration of providers delivering safe and high-quality patient care. Before performing in this role, the physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or certified nurse midwife must be approved to practice medical acts, tasks, or functions by the appropriate State Board as directed by the associated practice act. An employee at this level may be trained in one specialized area(s) such as family planning but will more likely have a broader medical background and will function in a variety of settings. As with the APP I, employees obtain a thorough patient history and physical examination; perform appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic procedures; order medications, tests, and treatments; record, develop and maintain health care and therapeutic plans; and counsel patients. Employees may function as primary/secondary assistants to the surgeon in routine, non-complex surgical operations as a regular function of the position. These employees are practicing in collaboration with a supervising physician who is ultimately responsible for the employees' medical practice. The APP and supervising physician must have a current collaborative practice agreement. The collaborative practice agreement must describe the arrangement for the APP and physician's continuous availability to each other for the ongoing supervision, consultation, collaboration, referral, and evaluation of care provided by the APP. A supervising physician (or backup supervising physician) must be immediately available, if needed, for consultation. The employee always functions in collaboration with the supervising physician. In addition, the employee may also function under the direction of non-medical personnel, i.e., nursing or administration while performing non-medical acts. This work has been identified in State hospitals, university infirmaries, local government public health and mental health programs, correctional units, and in other agency clinic settings.

### I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Patients present with a wider variety of conditions requiring that the employee have a broader and in-depth knowledge of the area of assignment; work may be performed in a specialized area(s), such as family planning or geriatrics, or in a generalized area that requires the employee to function in a wide variety of settings and work assignments. Employees at this level frequently serve as consultants to the medical staff, participate as in-service education leaders, and may serve as a student preceptor. Work may include participating in the evaluation, development, and implementation of agency policies, procedures, goals, and objectives, and other administration functions.

Intricacy - A broader variety of patient conditions present with greater complications. Employees have the legal scope of practice to make independent and varied decisions affecting the patient's treatment plan and total care; the work environment frequently dictates the need for this role. Employees must interpret the accepted patient care protocols and medical guidelines to cover this variety and determine the appropriate course of action.

Subject Matter Complexity - The employee must have a complete understanding of the patient care protocols and medical guidelines used in the area of work, and a broader understanding of the health field.

Guidelines – The patient care protocols and medical guidelines outline work procedures but are broader and allow the APP more independence in decision-making. Situations beyond the APP's scope of practice and expertise require consultation with supervising or the backup physician as appropriate. Guidelines include the medical protocol approved by the physician, agency policies and procedures, reference manuals, and program guidelines and standards.

## II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - Daily work is self-planned and performed with considerable independence. Short-range plans and changes can usually be implemented; significant or long-range plans and changes are coordinated with the supervising physician and other members of the health care team (i.e., pharmacist, physical therapist, nutritionist, etc.).

Nature of Review - Written histories, medical, and therapeutic treatment plans and drug prescriptions must be reviewed by the supervising physician per collaborative practice agreement and/or agency policy. This APP receives less physician supervision in dealing with unusual conditions and complex problems; however, these conditions may need to be reported. Situations beyond the APP's scope of practice and expertise require consultation with supervising or backup physician as appropriate.

Scope of Decisions - Work has a direct effect on the patient population served.

Consequence of Decisions - The consequence of this employee's decisions has significant impact on the patient's safety and well-being.

## III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - Work requires contacts with specific patient population and families who may be unfamiliar with the work function, or with special groups as mental patients or prisoners; may also have contact with APPs, physicians, nurses, and other medical personnel.

Nature and Purpose - Contacts frequently require educating and informing patients of options related to medical treatment(s) or other courses of action.

## IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Hazards - Periodically exposed to moderate hazards which could result in injury/illness.

Work Conditions - Some exposure to patients who may be difficult to work with and a mildly disagreeable work environment.

## V. JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Knowledges, Skills, Abilities, and Judgments - Thorough knowledge of techniques of interviewing, medical and relevant history taking, principles and practices of general medicine and disease states as they relate to the area of work; thorough knowledge of health appraisal tools, laboratory tests and findings, advanced physical assessment, advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and therapeutic procedures as related to the area of work; thorough knowledge and ability to plan a regime of care based on assessment and findings; considerable knowledge of available resources and appropriate referral methods.

Skills in performing clinical functions.

Skill in assisting with routine surgical procedures.

Ability to examine patients and detect abnormalities; ability to record accurately and completely all information necessary to evaluate and plan care and to convey this to the physician; ability to communicate orally; ability to teach and counsel individuals, families and groups in areas of health maintenance, preventive medicine, and care of the sick; and the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff and to gain the confidence of patients and families and work effectively with them; some ability to plan and conduct in-service training programs. Work requires judgment in the application of accepted patient care protocols and medical guidelines in the area of assignment to determine the appropriate course of action.

Minimum Training and Experience - Licensed as a Physician Assistant by the North Carolina Medical Board or approved to practice as a Nurse Practitioner or Certified Nurse Midwife by the North Carolina Board of Nursing and the North Carolina Medical Board and one year of experience as an APP.