

COMMUNITY HEALTH TECHNICIAN

This class identifies more advanced personal care and supportive nursing assistant assignments primarily in home health programs of local health departments. Work includes performing a variety of mechanical nursing acts, under professional supervision, in the personal care of homebound clients and other health services requiring knowledge and skill in aseptic techniques. Employees are responsible for continuing observation of patients' condition. Some incidental community outreach or clinic support assignments may be required.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Complexity - Assignments involve the more complex nursing assistant procedures such as catheter irrigation, giving enemas, carrying out decubitis care, tube feeding, and other health care. Employees observe clients' condition for any apparent change in physical or mental condition and inform the nurse or initiate emergency procedures outlined in agency policy.

Guidelines - Daily instructions are specified in written referrals for home health assignments. Instructions are clear and are normally given by nurse or physician. Employee would check with professional before varying the service prescribed.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Consequence of Action - Clients are often unmotivated and are physically unable to care for themselves. Services provided assist in maintaining the client in the home and provide necessary health care under strict aseptic conditions to avoid further infection for this or another client.

Accountability - Work is in the home providing direct care to the client or demonstrating to family members. The manner and type of service reflects on the agency in being an extension of total nursing program. Supervisor or nurse commits resources.

Review - Daily reports are completed for nurses' review outlining nursing assistant procedures and personal health care services provided. Supervisor or nurse usually accompanies the employee on the initial home visit while subsequent visits are conducted by employee with occasional on-site supervision by the nurse and/or other professionals.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Subject Matter - Work is with more acutely and chronically ill clients who often have decreased comprehension which requires constant repetition or understanding the professional medical instructions and carrying out personal hygiene. Clients are often unmotivated or may be unaware of available community resources or need assistance in understanding basic health care procedures.

Purpose - Work varies from sharing information, explaining medical instructions, demonstrating health care procedures and clarifying clients' problem to physician, to reporting observations of conditions to the professionals. Constant encouragement is offered to motivate clients.

IV. WORK ENVIRONMENT:

Nature of Working Conditions - Health care is often provided in homes of families where unsanitary conditions may exist. Clients may be bedridden or unable to provide personal care and grooming.

Personal Hazards - Sanitary procedures must be strictly observed in homes. Clients may be verbally abusive at time due to illness or senility, and on occasion may attempt physical harm.

V. JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Considerable knowledge of the routine care and treatment of acutely chronically ill clients; working knowledge of general physical and mental problems of the chronically ill and obvious signs of condition changes; skill in observing and assessing basic personal care needs of patients; skill in performing nursing assistance acts in decubitus care dressing, irrigation of catheters, tube feedings, and enemas as well as simple physical exercises.

Minimum Training and Experience - Demonstrated possession of knowledge, skills, and abilities as stated above through at least two years of experience in performing similar tasks in a hospital, clinic, nursing home, medical corps, or medical treatment program.

Special Condition for Continued Employment - If applicable, registration as a Nurse Aide by the North Carolina Board of Nursing within four months of employment.