

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

The NURSE PRACTITIONER provides primary medical care, treatment and referral services to patients in an institution clinic or medically isolated geographical area.

## DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This is a single classification and not currently part of a series of classes.

## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**1. Patient Examination.** Typical tasks: examines heart, lungs and respiratory system using stethoscope to identify heart murmurs and determine the nature and extent of other disorders; checks for masses and enlargements in major organs and glands, such as for evidence of enlarged liver, enlarged thyroid, ovarian and breast cysts and tumors; examines teeth, throat, ears, eyes, skin, and other parts of the body for signs of malformation or disease; conducts microscopic examination of samples to identify infections and blood cell counts; draws blood, takes smears, and orders laboratory studies; interprets results of laboratory studies.

**2. Patient Treatment.** Typical tasks: develops and carries out complete patient treatment plan as primary provider of health care services; treats infections, sprains, and simple fractures; sutures wounds not involving major blood vessels, nerves or tendons; suggests food supplements, non-prescription medicine, and prescribes antibiotics and other drugs to the extent authorized; refers cases to physicians and health specialists for conditions outside this employee's ability to diagnose or treat according to established protocol; confers directly with one or more physicians regarding diagnosis and care-management problems.

**3. Training.** Typical tasks: instructs nurses and health specialists in techniques to expand their diagnostic, counseling, and referral skills; confirms and extends assessments made by clinic registered nurses; authorizes and oversees treatment given under that employee's supervision; explains normal growth and development, abnormalities, diseases, diagnostic methods and treatment to patients and their relatives; follows up with parents, relatives, schools, and health resource organizations to obtain specialized help and or financial assistance, and to promote understanding.

**4. Representative Specialty Areas.** Typical tasks: as an Adult Nurse Practitioner, screens electrocardiographs to identify abnormal heart conditions; relates lab studies and X-rays to physical history and examinations to evaluate patient's physical condition.

As a Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner, conducts pelvic examinations of patients; within the limits of established protocol, prescribes birth control measures, observing for undesirable side effects; performs prenatal and postnatal care of mothers.

As a Nurse Midwife, within the limits allowed by the institution and the law, provides prenatal care of expectant mothers, conducting regular examinations for maintenance of the mother's general health as well as normal growth and development of the fetus; delivers babies, using anesthetic and performing minor surgery as necessary; provides immediate postpartum care to infants and mothers.

As a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, conducts mental status evaluations; screens patients for need of treatment, consultation or counseling support, using a variety of accepted testing methods and theoretical approaches; participates with professional colleagues and staff in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with mental health problems.

As a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner, specializes in evaluating the health of older adults through a knowledge of age-related differences which affect health; works to prevent and manage both acute and chronic conditions of physical and mental health.

### **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS**

Employees in this class are in contact in person with patients on a daily basis to provide care, and with patients' families to provide support and answer questions regarding patients' condition and medical procedures. They are in daily contact in person with doctors to clarify chart orders and report changes in patients' condition. They also have daily in person and telephone contact with support personnel to request test results, order supplies, move patients and request special diets.

### **SUPERVISION RECEIVED**

Works under general supervision of a nursing supervisor or physician. Work is reviewed through review of charting, patient complaints and frequent informal discussions. Work must comply with the Nurse Practice Act, Nurse Practitioner Certification regulations, Drug Enforcement Administration and Nurse Practitioner Prescription Formulary for the regulation of prescription drugs and controlled substances, State communicable disease regulations, State Board of Nursing administrative rules and policies, agency policies and departmental procedures.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Positions are found in central and remote locations throughout State government (e.g., general government agencies, human or natural resource agencies, correctional, mental health, or higher education institutions, hospitals, etc.). They require the willingness to work within the environment associated with the position's location.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (KSA)**

Extensive knowledge of diagnostic techniques.  
 Extensive knowledge of current treatment for common human diseases.  
 Extensive knowledge of nursing principles and practices.  
 General knowledge of human anatomy and physiology, microbiology, pathology, nutrition, and pharmacology.  
 General knowledge of human behavior and growth.  
 General knowledge of isolation techniques used in working with patients with infectious or communicable diseases.  
 Basic knowledge of community resources for patient referral.

Skill in therapeutic treatments, use of examination instruments, and administration of medication.

Skill in patient assessment, including laboratory tests and other

diagnostic procedures, analysis of data, and problem identification.

Ability to develop and modify treatment plans, including further diagnostic studies, therapy, patient education and identification of parameters for follow-up.

Ability to exercise judgment in determining when to consult other resources for diagnosis and case management.

Ability to communicate orally and in writing with a variety of individuals ranging from health care professionals to laypersons.

Ability to work with patients who may be aggressive, self-abusive or combative.

### **SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS**

Possession of a valid certification as a Nurse Practitioner issued by the Oregon State Board of Nursing at time of appointment.

**NOTE:** The KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS are required for initial consideration. ABILITIES may be required for initial consideration, at any time during the selection process, or during a trial service period as a final stage of the selection process. Some duties performed by positions in this class may require different KSA's. No attempt is made to describe every KSA required for **all** positions in this class. Additional KSA requirements will be explained on the recruiting announcement.

Adopted 4/90

Revised

Examples of work are typical of duties assigned to this class. No attempt is made to describe every duty performed by all positions in this class.