

## PSYCHIATRIC NURSE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a professional position involving responsibility for providing skilled psychiatric nursing care to clinic patients to aid in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of mental illness. Work is performed under general supervision of the Director of Community Mental Health Services, with leeway allowed for the exercise of independent professional judgment in carrying out details of the work. Supervision may be exercised over the work of subordinate employees. Performs related work as required.

### TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

Provides professional psychiatric nursing service as a member of a psychiatric interdisciplinary treatment team;  
Assesses and identifies patient nursing care needs and prepares and carries out a nursing care plan as a member of a psychiatric interdisciplinary treatment team;  
Engages in treatment modalities such as individual and group psychotherapy, family therapy and milieu therapy as appropriate;  
Visits patient homes to identify factors in the social, psychological and physical environment which may contribute to the disability;  
Participates in the intake, screening, and diagnostic evaluation of clinic patients and/or their family members;  
May refer clients to other agencies for a variety of needed services;  
Makes recommendations to fellow team members regarding emergency or continuing care and suggests alternative treatment plans;  
Maintains contact with agencies such as schools, social services and probation officers to understand and/or overcome clients' medical and psychological problems;  
Advises the family on methods of dealing with or correcting emergency situations and on the availability of medical, social and housing facilities for the patient in the community;  
Participates in and assists fellow team members in assessing, planning for, meeting and evaluating patient and family member needs to aid in the formulation of a treatment plan;  
Assists in Community Mental Health education, consultation, and public relations activities;  
Provides in-service psychiatric nursing education, orientation and consultation to Public Health Nursing service and other community agencies as needed;  
Participates in the staff development and teaching program of the facility;  
Attends courses and performs independent study and reading to further professional growth;  
Maintains a variety of records and reports related to duties;  
Performs a variety of related activities as required.

*Typical Work Activities are intended only as illustrations of possible types of work that might be appropriately assigned to an incumbent of this title. Work activities that do not*

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*appear above are not excluded as appropriate work assignments, as long as they can be reasonably understood to be within the logical limits of the job.*

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Good knowledge of psychiatric nursing principles and practices and their relation to psychopathology and environmental stress especially employing theories of human behavior and purposeful use of self and skill in their application; working knowledge of current trends and theories in the nursing care and treatment of patients with mental or emotional problems; working knowledge of interviewing techniques and practices related to psychiatric nursing and ability to apply the knowledge in performance of duties; working knowledge of community resources; ability to use the problem-solving approach in developing treatment plans; ability to understand and evaluate problems related to nursing treatment of mentally ill patients; ability to collaborate with members of an interdisciplinary team in an independent way; ability to act as a primary Therapist promoting mental health and preventing mental illness; ability to provide mental health teaching and consultation to various community agencies; ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with patients, their families and colleagues; ability to communicate effectively; ability to keep records and prepare reports related to psychiatric nursing services; skill in interpersonal relationships with individuals and groups such as providing a therapeutic milieu, focus on living problems, health teaching and goal-directed activities of daily living; empathetic attitude toward persons with emotional or mental health problems.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either

- a) Bachelor's degree in Nursing; or
- b) Completion of an accredited course of training for registered professional nursing and one (1) year of nursing experience in public health, rehabilitation, mental health or psychiatric nursing in a position requiring the provision of direct service to patients; or
- c) An equivalent combination of training and experience as indicated in a) and b) above.

PLEASE NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution accredited or recognized by the Board of Regents of the New York State Department of Education as a post secondary, degree-granting institution.