

Jurisdictional Class: Competitive
Adopted: February 10, 2003
Revised: August 10, 2011

NURSE PRACTITIONER (SCHOOL)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: These duties involve responsibility for providing, in collaboration with the licensed school physician, physical examinations/ screenings in accordance with State Education Law and school district policy; physical, emotional, neurological, social, cognitive, and mental health assessments; diagnosis; managing health care; therapeutic procedures; counseling; referral to other healthcare providers when appropriate; and health education for students in a school district. The Nurse Practitioner (Schools) assesses the physical and psychological status of patients by means of interview, health history, physical examinations, and diagnostic tests. Consistent with the medical protocol established by the school physician, the Nurse Practitioner may evaluate test findings, make assessments, and initiate appropriate actions to facilitate the implementation of preventive and/or therapeutic plans for the continuing health care needs of the student. Collaboration with the licensed school physician may be through conferences, observation of work performance, and periodic reports. The Nurse Practitioner (Schools) is expected to exercise initiative and to assume a leadership role in providing health care services. Work is performed under the general supervision of the Director of Health Services and/or school physician in accordance with written protocol with leeway allowed for use of independent judgment in carrying out the details of the work. Supervision may be exercised over support staff. The incumbent does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

Collaborates with administrators and health services personnel to establish a comprehensive and effective school health services program, and assists in the developing, evaluating, and modifying of the program;
Obtains appropriate health history on students and prepares and maintains cumulative health records/reports;
Conducts/reviews mandated screening procedures such as vision, hearing, height and weight, and scoliosis screening on all students in accordance with State Education Law and school district policy;
Performs comprehensive examinations, including physical, emotional, neurological, social, cognitive, and mental health assessments using approved technique and equipment and in accordance with State Education Law and school district policy;
Evaluates findings of health history, screening procedures, and physical examination and diagnoses health problems, advises and counsels student on health issues, assists student in managing existing chronic health conditions, and interprets health status of student to parents;
Develops and implements individualized health care plan for students with health problems;
Dispenses prescriptions in accordance with established guidelines;
Attends meetings and conferences to further professional growth and development;
May consult with school nurse teacher and/or school physician regarding nature of physical findings and need for referral, or may initiate a referral to family health care provider depending on the severity/urgency;
Makes recommendations to student and parent for seeking further evaluation and treatment of health concerns;
Interprets findings of educational significance to school staff, and recommends and implements modifications of the school program to meet student needs;
Serves as resource person on physical assessment and medical matters;
Assists school nursing personnel in assessing health problems on a daily basis, and completes episodic illness referral forms to be shared with private health care provider;
Provides in-service training to health services staff on critical health issues and new developments in health care.

Nurse Practitioner (School)

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the principles, practices, and techniques of nursing and their relation to medical practice;

Thorough knowledge of medical principles and practices as they relate to the role of the Nurse Practitioner;

Thorough knowledge of the theory and practice of preventive and public health care inclusive of those skills required to develop and implement a plan of primary health care to meet student needs;

Thorough knowledge of normal and abnormal signs and symptoms relating to physical and emotional health;

Good knowledge of the procedures and equipment used in physical examinations;

Good knowledge of current developments, literature, and sources of information in the field of health care services;

Skill in the application of professional nursing techniques and practices;

Ability to plan, organize, coordinate, administer, and evaluate the effectiveness of program plans and provision of services related to school health needs;

Ability to perform physical examinations and to assess the physical condition of students;

Ability to establish and maintain good relationships with students and others;

Ability to maintain records and make oral and written reports.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Possession of a current license and registration to practice as a registered professional nurse in New York State and possession of a current New York State certification as a nurse practitioner in the specialty area of School Health.