

PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER
(Community Mental Health)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This work involves the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of patients with mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders in a community mental health agency. Information is obtained from patient, relatives, and other sources and used in order to identify, define, treat, or prescribe a treatment plan for existing mental health disorders. The work is performed under the guidance of a collaborating physician. A Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

- Determines nature and extent of mental disorder and formulates treatment plan;
- Treats or directs treatment of patient using a variety of psychotherapeutic methods and medications;
- Orders laboratory and other special diagnostic tests and evaluates data obtained;
- Recommends drugs or other forms of treatment such as individual counseling or group therapy sessions;
- Records physical findings and formulates plan and prognosis based on patient's condition;
- Discusses cases with collaborating physician to assure adherence of specified practices and procedures;
- Submits mental health care plans and goals of individual patients for periodic review and evaluation by physician;
- May refer patients to physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other specialized health resources for consultation and /or treatment.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Thorough knowledge of the principles and techniques involved in the assessment and application of mental health treatment and diagnosis; Thorough knowledge of psychotherapeutic methods and medications involved in treating mental disorders; good knowledge and understanding of the psychological behavior of individuals throughout the normal life span; skill in the application of medical techniques; ability to instruct patients and staff in mental health practices; ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with mental health patients of various educational, economic, and cultural backgrounds; ability to operate a motor vehicle when required; tact; good judgement; emotional stability; initiative and resourcefulness; physical condition sufficient to perform the essential functions of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Possession of a Registration Certificate issued by the New York State Education Department to practice as a Nurse Practitioner in Psychiatry.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT: Possession of a New York State driver's license.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Adopted: 7/21/00