

**Department: Mental Health**  
**Classification: Non-Competitive (Pending SCS Approval)**  
**Grade: Ungraded M/C**

**SPEC DISK B A**  
**DOCUMENT 34**

**PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER**  
(Part-Time)

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** The work involves responsibility for providing health care, which consists of promotion and maintenance of health, prevention of illness and disability, basic care during acute and chronic phases of illness, guidance and counseling of individuals and families and referral to other healthcare providers when appropriate. The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner works under the supervision of the Director of Community Mental Health Services in accordance with written protocol. The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner 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 physician of record, the Psychiatric 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 patients. Does related work as required.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)**

Makes assessments of actual or potential health problems by case finding, health teaching, health counseling and the like;  
Obtains detailed medical histories of patients to systemically collect data on patient background, physical and mental condition, medications or treatments and other pertinent information;  
Performs physical and mental status examinations of patients to assist in assessment of the health status of the individual;  
Evaluates new patient's needs for medications, prescribes medications as appropriate and as indicated based on assessment of patient with consideration of symptom response, while maximizing therapeutic benefit and minimizing negative side effects.  
Performs physical and mental status examinations of patients to assist in assessment of the health status of the individual and maintains necessary documentation of patient treatment;  
Observes signs and symptoms associated with changes in patient's physical and emotional health;  
Discriminates between normal and abnormal findings and makes referrals to appropriate services;  
In collaboration with the physician of record, orders routine and laboratory tests, such as CBC, blood chemistry, urinalysis, serology, etc.;

Reviews cases with the physician to discuss findings and to devise plans of patient care covering both medical and nursing aspects;  
Participates with the physician in the delineation of standard treatment regimens which will guide the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in the management of individual health programs;  
Instructs, counsels and guides patients, their families and others toward the achievement of optimum health;  
Acts as a resource person to staff regarding health care.

Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, continued;

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

Thorough knowledge of nursing principles and techniques and their relation to medical practice; 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 patient needs; thorough knowledge of normal and abnormal signs and symptoms related to physical and emotional health; thorough knowledge of nurse practitioner skills; skill in clinical nursing practices and techniques; ability to perform duties within the American Nursing Association code for Professional Nurses; ability to plan, organize, coordinate, administer and evaluate the effectiveness of program plans and provision of services related to mental health nursing; ability to understand and carry out technical oral and written instructions; ability to perform physical and mental status examinations and to assess the physical and mental conditions of patients; ability to recognize signs and symptoms associated with changes in the physical and emotional health of patients and ability to respond appropriately; ability to explain or interpret instructions of a technical and professional nature to patients, families, nursing staff or other personnel; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Possession of a current license and registration as Registered Professional Nurse in New York State and possession of a current New York State Certification as a Nurse Practitioner with a specialization in Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program.

created 2/27/2002