

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CLASS SPECIFICATION

REGISTERED NURSE - ADVANCED PRACTICE

POSITION CODE: 38135
Effective: 12-1-02

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under direction of a licensed physician and in accordance with established standards, policies, procedures and a written collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician, serves as an advanced practice nurse (APN) by using advanced diagnostic skills, professional judgment and the results of diagnostic tests and procedures to initiate and coordinate the care of patients; uses medical, therapeutic and corrective measures to treat illness, improve health status and manage wellness and other conditions; orders diagnostic tests, administers medications and drugs, and may prescribe medications and drugs.

In addition to performing the nursing duties of a registered professional nurse, an advanced practice nurse performs functions previously reserved for physicians (e.g., diagnosing illnesses/injuries, ordering diagnostic tests, prescribing medications). Categories within advanced practice nursing include certified nurse practitioner (CNP) and certified clinical nurse specialist (CNS). A certified nurse practitioner is qualified to address a wide range of health problems, subject to the area of education and the collaborating physician's scope of practice. A certified clinical nurse specialist provides direct patient care and serves in a consultative, research, administrative or educational role. A written collaborative agreement describes the working relationship of the advanced practice nurse with the licensed physician and authorizes the categories of care, treatment or procedures to be performed, or the type/class of medications prescribed by the advanced practice nurse.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. As a certified nurse practitioner, conducts physical examinations, takes medical histories, performs diagnoses of and treats common acute minor illnesses or injuries and stable chronic illnesses, counsels and educates patients, orders and interprets laboratory tests, and prescribes medications; provides consultation to other clinicians and evaluates outcomes of treatment; conducts groups and classes; provides case management services.
2. As a certified clinical nurse specialist, serves as an expert in a specialized area (e.g., psychiatric/mental health) and provides primary care, work in the area of specialty and prescriptive authority and treatment; conducts groups and classes; provides consultation to other clinicians and evaluates outcomes of treatment; provides case management services; serves as a clinical consultant in the area of specialty; serves as a qualified examiner and executes certification for admission to mental health facilities; provides testimony for court hearings.
3. Participates in safety and quality-of-care activities; identifies aspects of care important for quality monitoring; utilizes existing, or develops new quality indicators to monitor the effectiveness of care; collects data to monitor quality and effectiveness of care; analyzes quality data to identify opportunities for improving care; makes or recommends changes to improve care; participates on interdisciplinary teams to evaluate clinical practice.

REGISTERED NURSE - ADVANCED PRACTICE (Continued)

4. Prepares and maintains medical records, case histories and other required documents; participates in patient treatment team meetings and other meetings and committees; sets up, operates and monitors special emergency equipment such as suction equipment and automatic external defibrillator.
5. Provides, or assists in providing, training/education for professional nursing personnel and other staff; provides teaching materials for use in the training program; advises on perceived educational needs of staff; identifies educational needs of staff and recommends coursework/training to meet the needs.
6. Maintains security of medical equipment and supplies that may be used as weapons; maintains surveillance of medical unit surroundings and patients and students for possession of contraband and illegal drugs; prepares reports of infractions of the facility's security rules and regulations. Inventories, orders and maintains security of medications, drugs and other medical equipment and supplies.
7. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

Education and Experience

Requires current licensure as an Advanced Practice Nurse in the State of Illinois.

May require licensure as a mid-level practitioner of controlled substances as defined in the Illinois Controlled Substances Act.

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

Requires thorough knowledge of physical assessment of patients, health promotion methods, pathophysiology and clinical pharmacology.

Requires thorough knowledge of advanced diagnostic skills, current medical, therapeutic and corrective measures including medication.

Requires thorough knowledge of professional nursing principles, standards, concepts and practices.

Requires thorough knowledge of application, use and care of specialized medical or emergency equipment.

Requires thorough knowledge of pharmacology of commonly prescribed medicines and their therapeutic and adverse reactions.

Requires ability to provide professional nursing care based on orders of the physician and the specific needs of the patient.

Requires ability to make independent professional judgments.

Requires ability to evaluate patient condition and behavior and prepare accurate detailed records of such observations.

Requires ability to apply emergency medical techniques such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and control of bleeding.

Requires ability to instruct others in the proper practices and procedures of patient care.

Requires ability to maintain security of the work area and comply with facility rules, regulations, policies and directives.