

HOME HEALTH AIDE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position exists in the Health Department and involves the provision of personal care assistance to patients receiving certified home health agency or long term health care services in the normal activities of daily living at their places of residence. The tasks provided involve simple health care, personal hygiene services, housekeeping and related supportive services designed to allow incapacitated patients the opportunity of remaining at home rather than requiring institutionalization. The services provided are prescribed by a physician in accordance with the patient's plan of treatment. Incumbents travel to patient's homes and work in close cooperation with, and under the guidance and direction of either a Public Health, Community Health or Registered Professional Nurse and/or other appropriate health care professional from a certified home health agency or long term home health care program. Supervision over the work of others is not a responsibility of employees in this class. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Bathes patients and gives personal hygienic care such as combing and shampooing hair, brushing teeth, cleaning and filing fingernails, toe nails, etc.;

Helps patient to the bathroom and in use of bedpan;

Assists patient in performing range of motion exercises or simple procedures prescribed by appropriate professional health care personnel as an extension of physical, speech or occupational therapy;

Changes linen, makes beds and performs other simple housekeeping tasks to provide a suitable living environment for the patient;

Plans prepares and serves meals for patients which may involve cooking and shopping visits to markets or stores to obtain food supplies;

Cleans, dusts, washes dishes and performs a variety of other light housekeeping tasks essential to patient home health care;

May raise and turn patients using hydraulic lift;

Assists with changing colostomy bags;

Irrigates catheters and prepares patients for sectioning after specialized training;

Cares for patient's clothing, including washing, ironing and simple mending after specialized training;

May provide gastric tube feeding after specialized training;

Discusses patient problems relative to the Home Health Aide function with the Community or Public Health Nurse and/or other health care professional in charge;

May prepare simple reports on patient daily living activities related to the home health function;

Monitors blood pressure, temperature, pulse and respiration;

May assist patient in taking self-administered medication, prescribed by a physician.

Observes changes in skin conditions, loss of appetite etc.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Ability to understand and carry out non-technical oral and written directions; Ability to take blood pressure and pulse; Ability to change colostomy bags and irrigate catheters;

Ability to get along well with others and gain the cooperation of patients;

Ability to perform light housekeeping tasks including shopping for food supplies and cooking;

Ability to lift and move patients;

Sympathetic attitude in caring for the sick;

Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Completion of basic training program in personal care services for Home Health Aides approved by the New York State Office of Health Systems Management.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Possession of a valid New York State drivers license at time of appointment.