

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION OF POSITION VACANCY

Department: Northampton County Health Department

Position Title: Physician Extender I

Position Grade: 81

Salary Range: \$64,072.00- \$82,019.00

Posting Date: 01/20/2012

Contact: Cheryl Warren

Deadline for Applying: until filled

See Personnel for detailed job description.

Mail applications to: Northampton County Health Department
P.O. Box 635
Jackson, NC 27845

MUST SUBMIT STATE APPLICATION PD 107

- I. A. Primary Purpose of Organizational Unit:
Enables the health department to provide healthcare including medical diagnosis and treatment under the supervision of a physician. May include but are not limited to Maternity, Family Planning, Child Health, BCCCP, Wise Woman, Pap & Breasts, General Clinic, DOC physicals, Sports physicals, etc.
- B. Primary Purpose of Position:
The physician extender will provide health services in all health department programs as described in program policies and procedures.

C. Work Schedule:

Monday thru Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm with one hour for lunch, after work hours will be worked as needed.

Public Health is a first responder agency for natural disasters (e.g. hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, winter storms), naturally occurring infectious disease outbreaks (e.g. influenza, SARS), technological hazards (hazardous materials releases, critical infrastructure disruptions), and terrorist incidents. This position, like all other positions within the department may be required to participate in any emergency response activities as deemed necessary by the Health Director or designee. Availability during emergencies and exercises is required.

D. Change in Responsibilities or Organizational Relationship:

None

II. A. Description of Responsibilities and Duties:

Medical acts are performed as approved by the North Carolina Board of Examiners and include medical diagnoses, treatment, and prescribing medication in the approved formulary. The practitioner obtains an in depth medical history, performs, a physical exam, documents findings and recommendations, develops treatment plan and counsels patients. Functions under the supervision of the back-up physician.

The employee will act as a consultant to nursing, lab, social workers, students and administration.

Work will be supervised by agency's Health Director or Clinical Supervisor.

The employee will on occasion serve as a preceptor to other employees.

Employee will keep abreast of the changing scope of nursing practices.

Serves as team member during disease outbreaks and staffing during emergency shelters. Other duties as directed by supervisor. Duties may also include H1N1 activities/directives as assigned by Supervisor, Health Director.

Duties include: Comprehensive, in depth medical, social, menstrual and contraceptive history; performs physical exam on patients both male and female in all age ranges; makes medical diagnosis; prescribes medications, counsels and provides education to the patient.

Physical exam includes HEENT, thyroid, heart, lung, breast, abdomen and pelvic exams. Also teaches self-breast exam. Contraception is prescribed

in accordance with standing orders for the practitioner based on medical findings and patient preference. Methods include oral contraceptive, IUDs, patches, Nuva Ring, Depo Provera and barrier methods. The speculum exam includes inspection and taking appropriate smears and cultures. The bi-manual pelvic exam is done to assess gynecological or contraceptive-related problems. Optional laboratory work is ordered to assist in the health management of patients. Treatment for anemia is initiated when appropriate.

Patient counseling and education includes interpreting the medical history and physical findings to the patient that affects their present and future health status. Contraceptive use and specific method instruction is taught and information given with regard to benefits, risks, alternatives, and side effects.

Follow-up exams are performed in accordance with state guidelines in regard to method prescribed or problems encountered.

Provides follow-up for abnormal pap smears as requested by Family Planning Coordinator.

Performs physical examinations on pediatric clients. Reviews appropriate labs, i.e., hemoglobin, blood lead, urinalysis, initiates interventions as needed. May educate parents on developmental stages and offers anticipatory guidance for their child. Reviews results of dental and vision screenings and made referrals as needed.

Reviews immunizations for compliance to North Carolina Immunization Law.

III. A. Description of Responsibilities and Duties

Provide prenatal examination, obtain and interpret appropriate prenatal – postpartum testing, education and management for low risk pregnancies; screen for high risk/complicated pregnancies and refer if indicated.

The practitioner may provide treatment for patient identified as having an STD. Performs STD screenings for General Clinic as necessary. Serves as a resource person to nursing staff.

Provides diagnosis and treatment for various other communicable diseases, for example Pediculosis, scabies, ringworm that children and adults often present to the health department.

Other Duties:

1. Serves as clinical advisor/preceptor to PHNs attending training programs involving physical assessment as requested and needed.
2. Participates in orienting staff as requested.
3. Attends workshops, seminars, and in-service for continuing education.
4. Participates as a member of audit committee.
5. Serves as a resource or consultant for public health nurses performing screening activities within the health department.
6. Makes presentations to groups about health related matters as requested.
7. The practitioner must be adept in performing all clinical functions as they relate to the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients who are referred to them for care.

IV. Accuracy of Work and Consequence of Error

1. Accuracy Required in work:
High degree of accuracy required, accurate performance and interpretation of medical history, signs and symptoms, lab reports for appropriate care. One hundred percent accuracy is needed since the practitioner's assessment, examination, diagnosis, and treatment have a direct impact on the patient's life and well-being.
2. Consequence of Error:
Impact could range from mild to severe, even life threatening. Errors in judgment could result in medication errors, wrong diagnosis, and could severely impact on the patient's well-being.
3. Instructions Provided to Employee:
The daily work is self-planned and performed with considerable independence. Receives orientation to the health department, public health; follows standing orders and local policies; follows the guidelines set by the North Carolina Medical Board.
4. Guides, Regulations, Policies and References Used by Employee:
Guidelines used include, but are not limited to rules and regulations for control of communicable diseases. Patient care guidelines for practitioners standing orders in the health department, Program Guidelines – licensing and certification law, rules and regulations of Board of Medical Examiners and joint subcommittee and Board of Pharmacy.
5. Supervision Received by Employee:
Supervision by back-up physicians. Work is reviewed whenever necessary for adherence to public health nursing standard by

Health Director (R.N.) or Clinical Nursing Supervisor through written reports and oral conferences. Practitioner will schedule reviews with back-up physician per North Carolina Medical Board guidelines, written documentation of these reviews will be kept in file by Health Director or Administrative Officer.

6. Variety and Purpose of Personal Contacts:
Daily contact with patients/families, doctors, nurses, other health department staff and general public.
7. Physical Effort:
Some bending, lifting and stooping are required.
8. Work Environment and Conditions:
Office space and desk space in clinical setting. May have to deal with patients who have poor hygiene, who are under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and/or who may be abuse and hostile. May be exposed to communicable diseases.
9. Machine, Tools, Instruments, Equipment and Material Used:
Otoscope, ophthalmoscope, stethoscope, microscope, vision screening, NST equipment, sphygmomanometer, copier, doppler, speculum and other medical instruments as necessary, scales, thermometer, syringes, resuscitation mask and emergency kits, typewriter, fax, computer and printer.
10. Visual Attention, Mental Concentration and Manipulative Skills:
Visual and mental concentration needed 100% of the time since inaccurate assessments may have substantial impact on a patient's care and follow-up.
11. Safety for Others:
Must be cognizant at all times of patient safety in the clinic area.
12. Dynamics of Work:
Individual must be able to motivate, influence and direct patient's care in order to promote good health practice.

V. Knowledge, Skill, Abilities, Education and Experience Requirements:

1. Knowledge:
The practitioner must have thorough knowledge of the techniques of interviewing, medical and other relevant history taking, principles and practices of general medicines and disease entities as they relate to the area of work; through knowledge and ability to plan a course of care based on the assessment and

findings and the knowledge of resources available and the procedures for referral.

2. Skills:

The practitioner must be adept in performing all clinical functions as they relate to the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients who are referred to them for care.

3. Abilities:

The practitioner must have certain physical abilities including the ability to see, feel touch, hear and smell in order to perform in this role. The practitioner must have the ability to examine patients and detect abnormalities; the ability to record/document all information necessary to evaluate and to plan care and to communicate this to the physician; the ability to communicate orally; the ability to teach and counsel individuals, families and groups in the areas of health maintenance, preventive medicine and care of the sick; and the ability to establish and maintain credibility with patients and families and the ability to plan and conduct in-service training programs.

4. Required Minimum Training:

Graduation from an accredited School of Nursing; graduation from a Nurse Practitioner Program approved by the North Carolina Joint Subcommittee of the Board of Nursing and Board of Medical Examiners, and “Approved to Practice Medical Acts” based on education and experience by the Joint Subcommittee and one year of experience as a practitioner.

5. Additional Training/Experience:

N/A

6. Equivalent Training and Experience:

N/A

7. License or Certification Required by Statute or Regulation:

Currently licensed as a Registered Nurse by the North Carolina Board of Nursing, and approval to practice medical acts by the Joint Subcommittee of the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners and North Carolina Board of Nursing, American Academy of Nursing Practitioners Certification and the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Must have a valid North Carolina driver’s license. Car for work.