

NURSE EPIDEMIOLOGIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, an incumbent of this class is responsible for implementing accepted standards and procedures for the control and prevention of infectious diseases and other conditions of public health significance, including nosocomial infections. This includes conducting investigations, reviewing surveillance data, evaluating environmental factors and making recommendations for the control and containment of such diseases and conditions. Work is performed as a member of and in coordination with other members of the Infection Control Committee. Supervision may be exercised over a small support staff.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

If assigned to WCMC:

Implements procedures for recognizing and reporting nosocomial infections on a systematic and current basis;

Makes patient rounds and participates in epidemiological investigations;

Reviews hospital admissions for possible infection control hazards and conditions;

Reviews autopsy reports, medical records and lab reports for any previously undetected nosocomial infections;

Works with other hospital departments such as medical services, nursing, housekeeping, administration and others to insure implementation of proper protocols, aseptic techniques and environmental cleanliness;

Conducts studies and audits related to infection control; issues and prepares recommendations based on the analysis of the results;

Participates as a member of the Infection Control Committee and other related committees as required;

Acts as resource person on issues dealing with infection control, including participation in In-Service training programs;

Maintains a current Infection Control Manual in coordination with the Infection Control Committee;

Acts as a liaison with Public Health agencies and other community or regulatory agencies;

Prepares reports and statistics as required.

If assigned to Health Department:

Implements the requirements of the Westchester County Health Code and New York State Health Code regarding reportable communicable diseases and health conditions;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Cont'd)

Implements procedures for surveillance of reportable communicable diseases and health conditions;

Implements procedures for the epidemiologic investigations of clusters of diseases, and outbreaks of diseases and other health conditions;

Provides information and advice to health care providers, other health care professionals and the general public regarding communicable diseases and other health conditions.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Good knowledge of modern nursing techniques, particularly as they apply to accepted method for the control of infectious diseases, including nosocomial infections and isolation procedures; familiarity with modern microbiology and hospital bacteriology laboratory methods; ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with all levels of medical, nursing and non-professional staff; ability to analyze data related to infections and make recommendations for its control; resourcefulness; tact; flexibility; assertiveness; initiative; physical condition commensurate with the requirements of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Graduation from an approved school of professional nursing and three years of professional nursing experience in a hospital or health care facility, two years of which must have been at a leadership level and involved the implementation of standards and procedures for the control and prevention of infectious diseases.

SUBSTITUTION: Possession of a Bachelor's Degree* or Master's Degree* in Nursing may be substituted for two years of the above stated experience, including up to one year of the specialized experience or possession of a Master's Degree* in Epidemiology may be substituted for two years of the above stated experience including up to two years of the specialized experience.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Possession of a valid license, and current registration issued by the New York State Department of Education, as a registered professional nurse.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution recognized or accredited by the board of Regents of the New York State Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.