

## SENIOR PSYCHIATRIC AIDE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision of a professional staff member, an incumbent of this class is responsible for duties basic to unit activities and personal care and treatment of psychiatric patients. The incumbents assist professional nursing staff in carrying out a plan of nursing care and maintaining a therapeutic environment. Incumbents provide leadership with the orientation and ongoing development of Intermediate Psychiatric Aides. Work is subject to shift assignment over a 24-hour, 7-day per week period. Supervision is not a requirement of this position. Does related work as required.

### EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

#### Clinical:

Assists with identification, organization and implementation of care basic to physical and emotional well-being of psychiatric patients;

Observes and reports pertinent clinical data to the therapeutic team and documents same in the patient's chart;

Assists with admitting, transferring and discharging patients by performing clerical and transportation duties;

Recognizes the need for and assists with the restraint or seclusion of a patient;

Provides assistance, information, and emotional support for patients in community meetings, group therapy, social and recreational activities;

Participates as a member of the multi-disciplinary treatment team where therapeutic interactions with patients are evaluated and plan of care is developed;

Responds appropriately to emergency situations;

Assists in maintaining a safe, clean environment for patients;

Provides input to nursing professionals in the evaluation of lower level Psychiatric Aides;

Maintains competence through participation in continuing in-service education;

Assists with orientation and continuing development of Intermediate Psychiatric Aides;

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed;

May access protected health information (PHI) in accordance with departmental assignments and guidelines defining levels of access (i.e. incidental vs. extensive).

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Demonstrates ability to relate therapeutically to patients and their families; interest in, and aptitude for, applying basic psychiatric nursing principles; ability to maintain good working relationships with staff; ability to carry out hospital policies and procedures; ability to follow and give oral and written instructions and to communicate patient information verbally and in writing; ability to read, write, speak, understand, and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential duties of the position; ability to use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, e-mail and database software; dependable; patient; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Either: (a) three years of experience as a nursing aide; or (b) high school or equivalency diploma and a satisfactory completion of Intermediate and Senior Nursing Aide or Psychiatric Aide In-service Education Programs (which may be waived on the recommendation of the Director of Nursing if equivalent training and experience is demonstrated).

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, only experience gained after attaining the minimum education level indicated in the minimum qualifications will be considered in evaluating experience.