LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

JOB SUMMARY

A Licensed Practical Nurse always functions under the immediate supervision of a registered professional nurse and provides patient care according to a plan prepared by the registered nurse and authorized by the attending physician.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Graduation from a school of practical nursing that was accredited by a state at the time of graduation.
2. Graduation from high school or its substantial equivalent.
3. Possession of a current unrestricted license to practice as a practical nurse in Mississippi.
4. Preferably six months to one year hospital experience or prior home health experience.
5. Knowledge of available community resources.
6. Hospice – one year full time experience as an LPN. Two years of full time experience is preferred.

Requirements:

1. Must possess a valid state driver’s license.
2. Must possess automobile liability insurance.
3. Must wear seat belts at all times while driving.
4. Dependable transportation kept in good working condition.
5. Must be able to drive an automobile in all types of weather conditions.
6. Currently licensed in the state of Mississippi.

Traits:

1. Must be organized, detail oriented, and possess the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
2. Must be self-motivated and possess a high standard of professional ethics.
3. Must possess an exceptional knowledge of disease processes and work effectively with a supervising Registered Nurse.
4. Must possess adequate knowledge of the Board of Nursing LPN practice regulations.

Physical Demands:

1. Communicate with staff, outside providers, clients, and supervisory personnel.
2. Use a computer and/or writing utensil for recording information.
3. Manual dexterity for the operation of equipment, including but not limited to computers, printers, copiers, and typewriters.
4. Visual acuity for viewing, analysis, and entry of data
5. Travel via personal vehicle to all service areas is required.
6. Work is a combination of sitting, standing, and walking.
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, CONT'D.

Risk Category I
1. May anticipate exposure to blood and/or body fluids during the performance of job duties.
2. May be exposed to extremes in temperature and humidity when traveling and in patient homes.
3. May be exposed to dust, gas, fumes, and odors when traveling or in patient’s homes.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Ability and willingness to work as a part of a nursing team.
2. Knowledge, skill and ability to perform selected nursing procedures and techniques of patient care including, but not limited to, collecting specimens, administering simple medications and treatments, checking and recording vital signs and generally caring for the homecare patient. The LPN must have keen observation skills with prompt intervention when problems identified with the RN or physician. The following list includes other responsibilities of the LPN:
   a. Giving personal care - bathing patient and changing bed; toileting, care of the mouth, hair, feet, and skin (nail trimming prohibited on diabetic patients).
   b. Assisting patients with ambulatory activities - dangling, transfer from bed to chair, wheelchair, standing, and walking.
   c. Assisting with positioning and body alignment and normal range of motion exercises.
   d. Giving special care - (1) changing dressings, (2) taking and recording vital signs, (3) enemas (retention and/or cleansing), (4) preparation and administration of medications (oral, subcutaneous, intramuscular), (5) irrigations (eye, ear), (6) Venipunctures for lab specimens - with proper training and demonstration of acceptable technique, (7) and assisting the registered nurse in care of patients with special appliances, casts and traction. F/u on patient problems/abnormal findings.
   e. Prevention and care of ischemic ulcers.
   f. Douches
   g. Irrigation of retention catheter.
   h. Tube feeding, but not insertion of tube.
   i. I.V. responsibilities: D/C I.V. when therapy completed or infiltration occurs.
3. Understanding, patience and tact in dealing with patients, families, physicians, and the public.
4. Observes and informs supervising personnel/physician of changes in a patient's physical and/or mental condition timely.
5. Completes all clinical documentation with accuracy, clarity, conciseness, thoroughness, and timeliness.
6. Extensive travel between office and patients’ homes.
7. Participates in educational and in-service programs as deemed necessary by the agency and/or state.
8. Participates in all Staff Meetings and Clinical Conferences when appropriate.
9. Communicates with primary RN regarding patient status/POC and participates effectively in scheduled on-site supervisory visits, in compliance with all state and federal regulations.