

Jurisdictional Class: Competitive
Adopted: June 15, 1989
Revised: May 28, 2010

NURSING HOME/SOCIAL WORKER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The position involves responsibility for providing professional social work services to patients/residents and their families in a nursing home to aid them in dealing with medically related social and emotional problems. An employee in this position serves as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team involving medicine, nursing, dietary, rehabilitation therapies, and activities personnel, in identifying needs and in formulating and implementing the restorative and discharge potential of patients. The work is performed within prescribed guidelines with leeway permitted in determining the scope of social work services to be provided in helping patients/residents adjust to their medical condition and to the environment of the facility concerned. Employees in this position consult and cooperate with professionals in other disciplines and agencies to aid them in recognizing the significant social components of health care and understanding their impact on patients/residents and their families. The work is performed under the general supervision of higher level social work personnel (MSW). The incumbent does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

Assesses psycho-social needs of patients/residents upon admission and during continued stay in the facility by anticipation in interdisciplinary health care team formulation of the patient care plan;
Establishes social work goals to aid patients, their families, or responsible parties in dealing with the medical problems concerned;
Provides supportive social work services to help patients adjust to their illnesses, disabilities, and stay in the facility;
Provides consultation to facility staff regarding the social and emotional aspects of patient health care and treatment;
Records significant social services progress data and periodic reassessment in patient medical records;
Determines psycho-social implications of potential patient discharge or transfer to different levels of health care in accordance with utilization control requirements, and aids facility staff and patient families in implementation of arrangements;
Modifies social service goals or treatment consistent with changes in patient/resident care needs;
Maintains information on community and health resources which can be utilized during patient care and subsequent discharge;
Prepares a variety of records and reports related to the work;
Teaches mandated in-service program on patients' rights and the needs of the elderly on an annual basis.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of the practices and procedures of social work and of the social and psychological factors related to disease and disability;
Working knowledge of state and federal rules, regulations, and requirements related to health care facilities;
Ability to counsel hospital patients/residents and their families;
Ability to function as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team;
Ability to interpret federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the delivery of social work services in a health care facility;
Ability to prepare records and reports related to social services activities;
Ability to utilize community resources effectively to meet facility patient and family social service needs;
Ability to confer with and provide social services consultation to other health care professionals.

Nursing Home Social Worker

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Human Services, or closely related field and one (1) year of experience in working with elderly clients or individuals with special needs.

NOTE: Your degree must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education. If your degree was awarded by an educational institution outside the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies who provide this service can be found on the Internet at <http://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm>. You must pay the required evaluation fee.