

## STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

**Class Title: Student Health Nurse**

**Class Code: 51021**

**Pay Grade: GH**

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### **A. Purpose:**

Provides nursing care and health education to patients and clients at a student health clinic assesses and treats injuries, administers prescribed medications and injections to ensure student health needs are met.

### **B. Distinguishing Feature:**

A Student Health Nurse is located at a state-supported school under the direction of the board of regents and responds to the health needs or concerns of students.

### **C. Functions:**

*(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions that may be found in positions of this class.)*

1. Provides patient care to ensure health needs are met.
  - a. Assesses each patients' physical condition.
  - b. Conducts patient interviews.
  - c. Evaluates the patients' status.
2. Administers medications and treatments as prescribed to ensure patients' health needs are met and side effects to medications or treatments are explained to patients and documented and reported as necessary.
  - a. Monitors patients' responses to medications or treatments.
  - b. Relays information and data to the clinic and explaining prescribed medication so r treatments to the patient.
3. Maintains patient records to maintain adequate and accurate patient data.
  - a. Records pertinent information and completing special reports and forms as assigned.
4. Responds to emergencies to provide medical attention to students in emergency situations.
  - a. Provides initial assessments.
  - b. Determines what specific medical treatment is needed.
  - c. Makes arrangements for that care.
5. Prepares a clinic for scheduled visits by students or for visits by specialists and assists in evaluations to ensure appropriate treatment is administered.
  - a. Arranges for x-rays.
  - b. Arranges for laboratory analysis.
  - c. Provides relevant information to the medical crew.
6. Refers students to clinics, hospitals, or specialists, makes appointments and follows up on them to ensure students have obtained the necessary health care.
7. Maintains patient and records confidentiality in accordance with legally defined patient's rights to ensure those rights are maintained.

8. Performs other work as assigned.

**D. Reporting Relationships:**

Reports to an administrator.

**E. Challenges and Problems:**

Challenged to effectively respond to a treat student health needs, which is difficult due to limited control over whether students fill prescriptions and initiate or continue treatments, changes in medications, determining what a student's problem really is, ad whether the condition is caused by a physical or mental condition.

Typical problems include administering the proper medications, dealing with injuries, helping students to present and resolve problems, offering recommendations for pregnancies or communicable diseases treatment, handling requests from outside agencies for medical data, making referral to outside area, staying current with changes in the medical field, and advising students with appropriate patient education.

**F. Decision-making Authority:**

Decisions made include whether to do preliminary physical assessments, the need for lab tests, whether to refer treatment, making a tentative diagnosis, treatment according to standing orders, how to respond to telephone inquiries, if a condition is an emergency, if and when to call other medical staff, determining the need for and presenting patient education, whether to monitor patients, and whether or how to contact individuals who have been exposed to a communicable disease.

Decisions referred include changes in established policies and procedures, the prescribed treatment and medications for the treatment of illnesses and injuries; types and amounts of medications to administer, whether a condition requires hospital treatment, and the content of medical doctors, physicians assistants, or nurse practitioners standing orders.

**G. Contact with Others:**

Daily contact with students in treating injuries or in providing information; with faculty, staff, and other health professionals to give and receive information; with clinics and hospitals to make appointments for students; and with parents occasionally to relay the health concerns of students within guidelines of patient confidentiality and the nursing code of ethics.

**H. Working Conditions:**

Works in a student health clinic with the possible exposure to communicable diseases, various illnesses, and angry or intoxicated patients or students.

## **I. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

Knowledge of:

- professional nursing theory and practices;
- recent developments in the field of professional nursing applicable to the area of assignment;
- clinical procedures;
- current health education practices.

Ability to:

- communicate information clearly and concisely;
- keep medical records and charts;
- make reports on observations;
- apply medical and nursing techniques and practices;
- deal effectively and tactfully with patients and staff;
- use equipment with medical and nursing care.

## **J. Licensure or Certification:**

Must be licensed as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota.