

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Title: Physician Assistant

Class Code: 51086

Pay Grade: MF

A. Purpose:

Diagnoses and provides therapeutic care to patients and teaches preventative health measures to assist physician in one or more of the major clinical disciplines of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, pediatrics and obstetrics.

B. Distinguishing Feature:

Physician Assistants take medical histories, makes preliminary diagnoses, and provides care for acute or chronic patients under standing orders, and conducts health training in schools, institutions, and the community. The incumbent consults with or refers final determinations to a physician. The position supervises and conducts performance appraisals.

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. Obtains and records complete and accurate medical history to aid in proper diagnosis and treatment of patient's condition.
2. Performs physical examinations to guarantee accurate results of examinations.
3. Identifies and evaluates medical findings to ensure proper diagnosis of condition.
 - a. Develops medical records from examination and test findings.
 - b. Makes daily rounds to provide individual health maintenance, and follow-up and assessments in hospitals, infirmaries, and clinics.
4. Prescribes and provides proper medication or therapy or makes necessary referrals to primary care physician to ensure competent treatment of patients' medical situations.
 - a. Assists the primary care physician in management of patients with common, acute, and chronic conditions by providing therapy and treatment within established standing orders.
 - b. Reviews and updates medication and patient care plans.
 - c. Provides appropriate emergency care and treatment to patients.
 - d. Discriminates between normal and abnormal findings, recognized early states of serious physical and emotional problems, determines appropriate referral of patient to physician for further evaluation.
5. Provides health-maintenance services and health-care education workshops to maintain and update medical awareness and information of staff members and the public.
6. Assigns, reviews and evaluates work performance of subordinate medical staff to facilitate efficient operation and high-quality services of medical health-care facility.
7. Performs other work as assigned.

D. Reporting Relationships:

The incumbent supervises registered and licensed practical nurses, who provide patient care and administer prescribed medications and treatments, and laboratory technicians who conduct and evaluate medical tests and X-rays.

E. Challenges and Problems:

Challenges include accurately diagnosing, treating, and evaluating effectiveness of treatment of illnesses or injuries incurred by patients; obtaining adequate information through medical histories; examining and testing to maintain or improve patients' health, providing adequate assistance to physicians in operation of medical facility; and providing useful health-related information to staff through in-service training workshops.

F. Decision-making Authority:

Decisions made include initial examinations, obtaining medical information and primary diagnoses, as well as the care and monitoring of ill or injured patients; providing health care information through workshops; ordering medical supplies with approval of purchasing officer; and supervising and evaluating subordinate personnel.

Decisions referred include diagnoses, treatments, long-term health-care plans, major medical decisions, and final approval on personnel actions.

G. Contact with Others:

Daily contact with supervising physician for consultations, nurses to exchange patient information, laboratory and medical aid personnel to order tests or patient care, pharmacy to discuss prescriptions, and other staff to convey medical information; and occasional contact with consulting physicians to obtain medical opinions, and patients' families to relay medical information.

H. Working Conditions:

Clinic, infirmary, hospital, and laboratory settings; works with potentially dangerous medical instruments, and is exposed to communicable diseases and some potentially hostile patients.

I. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- medical consultation process;
- obtaining and maintaining medical histories;
- the practices and procedures of delivering primary health care medical services;
- delivery of clinical services;
- teaching methods employed in in-service training.

Ability to;

- diagnose and perform therapeutic care;
- provide health care information through educational workshops;
- recognize and deal constructively with the needs and concerns of patients and families;
- supervise personnel and operations of health-care facility;
- communicate medical needs and information clearly and concisely.

J. Licenses and Certification:

Certificate noting successful completion of a physician assistants curriculum and examination approved by the South Dakota State Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners.