

MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position exists in the County Health Department and involves responsibility for carrying out assigned social work functions of a community home health program. The work requires effective use of medical, health and social service resources of the agency and community. Depending upon the scope of the agency's home health program functions include consultation, casework, assessment and supervision of patients. The incumbent aids patients with social, emotional and related difficulties associated with their disability to help them to adjust to their new environment. Work is performed under the direction of the Director of Patient Services or the Supervising Public Health Nurse with wide leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in planning and carrying out the details of the work. May participate in in-service training of agency staff. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only)

- Provides social work services to help patients adjust to their disabilities and social environment;
- Arranges to have treatment plans implemented by counseling patient and families, and provide linkage to community medical and health resources;
- Participates in meetings to develop patients' treatment plans with department personnel;
- Maintains records of social needs of patients, social work interventions and patient//family response;
- Participates in the intake and screening of new patients, evaluating and diagnosing the patient and problems;
- Refers patients to other agencies as appropriate;
- Participates in the development of new medical and medical social casework policies, procedures and forms and provides assistance to the agency and community health agencies in their implementation;
- Develops and maintains effective working relationships with the medical and allied professions, hospitals and health agencies in the community;
- Represents agency on boards and committees as assigned;
- Assists with reporting requirements to New York State Department of Health and Social Services;
- Compiles case studies, recording pertinent information;
- Assists members of the home health team to incorporate social issues into the patients treatment plan;
- Collects and maintains appropriate data from various sources such as professional staff and patients' families to establish an overall approach to the solution of patients' medical and social problems;
- Maintains information on community and health resources which can be utilized during the patient's care and subsequent to his discharge;
- Participates in the process of transfer of patients to other levels of treatment as appropriate.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Through knowledge of the practices and procedures of medical social case work and the social and psychological factors affecting disease and disability;
- Good knowledge of what constitutes a high quality of medical care;
- Good knowledge of the proper use of diagnostic information and ability to make use of such information without violating medical ethics;
- Working knowledge of federal, state and local laws affecting the agency medical and health programs;
- Ability to utilize community resources effectively to meet individual and family social services needs;
- Ability to interpret federal, state and local laws, codes and regulations affecting the agency's medical and health programs;
- Ability to function as a member of an interdisciplinary health care team;
- Ability to keep records and report;
- Ability to utilize community resources effectively to meet patient needs;
- Ability to confer with and provide consultation to other health and social services professionals;
- Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Possession of a master's degree in social work from a graduate school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and New York State Education Department, current certification or license to practice social work in New York State issued by the State Education Department and one year of social work experience in a health care setting.