PERINATAL HEALTH WORKER

Definition

Under supervision, and according to pre-established protocols, to assist nursing and other professional employees at Kern Medical Center in providing perinatal psychosocial, nutritional and health education assessment and counseling services to pregnant women, and to do related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Utilizes a personal interview format to conduct needs assessments in the areas of psycho-social, nutritional, and health education of pregnant women who are receiving maternity services through the Kern Medical Center Ambulatory Care Programs. While adhering to established procedures, incumbents are expected to exercise independent judgement and initiative.

Essential Functions

- obtains health histories, inventories the patient’s health practices and habits
- documents health problems that are communicated during the interview
- develops a prenatal care plan for the patient to include instruction to the patient and monitoring of the patient’s progress
- conducts ongoing counseling and assessment sessions with patients, utilizing the prenatal care plan as a guide
- documents the patient’s progress and outcomes; maintains patient files and data bases
- coordinates the patient’s needs with other health care professionals; makes referrals to appropriate community agencies and organizations; coordinates agency interventions as necessary
- acts as a subject matter expert and as a preceptor for new hires
- dependent upon area of practice or department assignments, demonstrates clinical knowledge and skill in the care of the newborn, infant, toddler, child, adolescent, adult and geriatric patient ranging up to 100+ years of age.
Other Functions

- Performs other job-related duties as assigned. **Incumbents must have the ability to perform the Essential Functions of the job.**

Employment Standards

High School Diploma, G.E.D. or equivalent and two years of experience in direct patient care, public or community health or other health related community services of which one year has been spent in perinatal or OB/GYN services. Completion of one (1) year of post secondary education in a vocational nursing or allied health program or completion of a post secondary program in medical assisting may be substituted for one (1) year of the experience.

Possession and maintenance of a current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Basic Life Support (BLS) card. Appointees not possessing the BLS card must successfully complete appropriate training and qualify for the BLS card within 60 days of employment.

Knowledge of socioeconomic, environmental and cultural factors affecting perinatal health care; basic principles of individual and group behavior; available community health programs and facilities; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing with persons from diverse social, economic and cultural backgrounds; maintain accurate records; evaluate health history data and prepare perinatal health care plans for clients; communicate effectively both verbally and in writing; read, understand and apply written procedures and instructions; conduct individual and group education activities; and make arithmetic computations. Ability to communicate effectively; follow oral and written instruction and work independently without close supervision; display sensitivity to patient care needs and enthusiasm for prenatal health care services.

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