

## **Behavioral Health Nurse**

Under general supervision, the Behavioral Health Nurse provides professional nursing care to clients with developmental disabilities who have behavioral needs, providing direct care services which include facilitating social and emotional needs, providing teaching to clients and their families, supervising medication schedules and evaluating client progress.

### **Essential Job Functions:**

- Conducts intake assessments through interviews with clients and relatives to gather case history.
- Plans and provides nursing care for patients.
- Makes nursing diagnosis of the medical and emotional status of clients and recommends treatment options.
- Consults with physicians and other behavioral health staff in designing appropriate treatment plans for clients.
- Administers and notes reactions to psychotropic drugs and other medications.
- Arranges further medical attention when necessary.
- Assists the client in understanding the nature of emotional disturbances and accepting the need for treatment.
- Keep accurate written charts and records of client activities and progress. Complies with all laws, rules, regulations, protocols, policies, and procedures.
- Use professional judgment to ascertain and to apply appropriate intervention techniques with clients in crisis.
- Assists in maintaining a safe and secure environment for staff and clients.
- Tests for vital signs of pain and ensures treatment of pain.
- Documents all client information on medical charts and follows physician's written orders.
- Maintains patient confidentiality.
- Maintains accurate records and documentation of client treatments, immunizations and laboratory results according to standard medical recordkeeping.
- Performs administrative assignments such as filing, answering phones, typing, and completing progress notes in the computer system.
- Performs related duties, as requested.
- Upholds the Agency's code of ethics and customer service standards.
- Performs other tasks or duties as assigned.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Associate or BSN degree from an accredited college or university.
- CPR certification and Behavior/Crisis Management certification required. BLS, ACLS certifications a plus.
- Valid NJ RN license in good standing required.
- Minimum of 2 years clinical experience, preferably in a behavioral healthcare setting, DD/ID setting or combination of education and experience.
- Knowledgeable of patient rights and laws pertaining to behavioral health and regulations pertaining to psychiatric nursing and the treatment of the mentally and/or emotionally ill. Knowledge of theories, principles, and techniques of group and individual psychotherapy; symptoms and behavior patterns of developmentally disabled individuals

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