

CORRECTIONAL VOCATIONAL NURSE I/II

Definition:

Under general supervision of a registered nurse or physician, assists physicians, registered nurses and other health specialists in the treatment and care of patients within the scope of their licensure in Kern County Correctional facilities.

Distinguishing Characteristics

The Correctional Vocational Nurse I/II flexible classification series provides nursing care to inmates, wards and detainees housed in Kern County Correctional facilities and is distinguished from Vocational Nurse I/II flexible classification series by assignment in a locked detention facility with (1) clients of various cultural, physical, behavioral and psychological profiles; (2) extended exposure to odors, fumes, noises, behaviors and medical conditions associated with detention facilities; and (3) the constant threat or risk of verbal abuse and injury.

Correctional Vocational Nurse I the entry level in the Correctional Vocational Nurse I/II flexible classification series. It is distinguished from Correctional Vocational Nurse II by the latter being given journey-level assignments and are expected to complete them without detailed supervision.

Promotions to the next higher level are considered on a merit basis subject to recommendation by the Department Head and approval by the Director of Personnel.

Essential Functions:

- Performs patient care functions within their scope utilizing broad knowledge in the techniques, methods, procedures and equipment required in support of the registered nurse and medical staff in patient treatment.
- Prepares patients for examinations and treatments; administers treatments as prescribed; gives medications per policy.
- Demonstrates knowledge and use of applicable skills and competencies; performs general nursing care in a correctional setting.
- Performs dressing changes, catheterizations, tracheal suction, tracheotomy care, bathing, colostomy care, and traction care.
- Takes and records, temperature, pulse and respiration, weight, and oxygen saturation; and other indicators.
- Observes and maintains records reflecting condition, medication, and treatment and reports unusual conditions and changes in patient conditions or behavior.
- Collects, reports and documents data to assist registered nurse and medical staff to determine whether inmates and detainees have physiological and or psychosocial risk factors.
- Participates in development of nursing care plans.

- Accepts assignments and floats to other facilities according to the needs of the Correctional Medicine Department as instructed by the clinical director, clinical supervisor or designee.
- Practices personal safety awareness, as well as advocates for inmate, ward, and detainee safety as appropriate for a correctional environment.
- Responds to changes in the facility, such as, but not limited to: lock downs, inmate and ward altercations, riots, medical priorities, quarantines and exposure to chemical restraints.
- Participates in the orientation of new staff, completes all competencies, mandatory classes and educational coursework as required by the correctional facility and Kern Medical Center.
- Maintains confidentiality as prescribed in regulation (Title 15, HIPAA, and the Penal Code).
- Performs other job related duties as assigned.

Employment Standards:

Level I: Completion of a basic pre-service Vocational Nurse curriculum accredited by the California Board of Vocational Nurse and Psychiatric Technician examiners.

OR

Completion of an educational program leading to an Associate degree or Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing, AND One (1) year of applicable vocational nursing experience and possession of a current valid license as a Vocational Nurse as issued by the State of California.

Level II: Completion of a basic pre-service Vocational Nurse curriculum accredited by the California Board of Vocational Nurse and Psychiatric Technician examiners.

OR

Completion of an educational program leading to an Associate degree or Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing, AND Three (3) years of applicable experience and must obtain intravenous therapy and blood withdrawal certification within six months.

Possession and maintenance of a current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider Basic Life Support (BLS) card required.

Dependent upon assignment incumbents may be required to possess and maintain specific certificates of competency as a condition of employment.

Knowledge of: a variety of techniques, methods, procedures, and equipment utilized in patient care.

Ability to: utilize a variety of techniques, methods, procedures, and equipment in patient care; maintain effective working relationships with the registered nurse, medical, and custody staff, internal and external customers and patients; follow instructions as given; work shifts as required; react competently in emergency situations.

Medical Examination:

A thorough physical evaluation is required. Applicants must be free from conditions that would prevent them from performing the work required of a Correctional Vocational Nurse I/II.

Character:

Applicants will be required to pass an extensive background check and be fingerprinted as they must possess and maintain clearance to be employed in Kern County correctional facilities. Felony convictions will be disqualifying and convictions for misdemeanors and traffic offenses will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated “Disaster Service Workers” through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec. 3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services). As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable following a significant emergency or disaster.

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