

RECREATION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

KIND OF WORK

Paraprofessional recreation therapy work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under general supervision, designs and implements recreation therapy and leisure time activities to increase socialization and interpersonal skills and to improve self-confidence and motor skills for mentally retarded, mentally ill, chemically dependent and geriatric clients; performs related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Designs recreational activities for patients/residents to develop skills identified in the individual treatment plan by implementing physical therapy through games (such as volley ball, floor hockey) and leisure time therapy through arts and craft projects.

Schedules and conducts activities for patients/residents to constructively use their leisure time during daytime, evening and weekends by arranging attendance at movies, ball games, bowling, and special events.

Improves clients' self-care skills such as feeding, grooming, dressing to increase level of independence by teaching homemaking activities.

Observes, evaluates and documents patient/resident progress to assess effectiveness of treatment plan and to suggest the necessary changes by developing an information base (profiling attitudes, attendance, skills learned).

Orders and maintains supplies and equipment for activities so that quantities fulfill service needs by measuring inventory levels and preparing requisitions.

Inspects equipment regularly to ensure that equipment is operational and safe by testing for mechanical efficiency.

Prevents physical injury to patients/residents by defining activity limits, restraining abusive/disruptive patients/residents, cleaning work areas after programs and by escorting clients to and from activities off and on campus.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Therapeutic recreation techniques, procedures, behavior modification techniques and basic principles of learning sufficient to teach the patient/resident to be self-sufficient and motivated.

Transfer techniques sufficient to safely lift, move and position clients.

The principles and practices of basic nursing sufficient to administer medications and health treatments such as ear drops; topical creams and ointments; dressing wounds; and first aid.

The client groups (deaf; blind; mentally retarded; mentally ill; chemically dependent; geriatric) sufficient to permit accommodation for client needs and limitations.

The rules, regulations, policies and practices governing treatment of patients/residents sufficient to protect their rights and safety.

The rules of a variety of recreational sports/activities used in a therapeutic setting sufficient to teach patients/residents.

Skill in:

Human relations sufficient to interact with patient/resident and staff in order to establish and maintain effective working relationships.

Arts and crafts sufficient to demonstrate and/or instruct patient/resident.

Written, oral and manual communication sufficient to provide pertinent information on patient/resident progress to treatment staff and to interact with patient/resident.

Ability to:

Observe, evaluate and document patient/resident participation and progress in recreational activities as it satisfies goals of the treatment process.

Conduct and participate in recreational activities, including athletic events in a group situation or on a one-to-one basis.

Explain/instruct the techniques of arts, crafts and games in order to acquire and maintain interest and/or participation.

Interact with the patients/residents, establishing a therapeutic rapport and motivating them to relate to others.

Modify/adapt recreational activities to meet needs/limitations of individual patient/resident and of the group.

SPECIAL WORK CONDITIONS

Jobs in this class may require the employee to regularly lift, transfer and position patients/residents and to participate in athletic events. In addition, the employee may be subject to unpredictable and hazardous patient/resident behaviors.

Est.: 11/83

Rev.:

T.C.: 4/84

Former Title(s): Institution
Recreation
Program Assistant