

SECURITY COUNSELOR

KIND OF WORK

Direct care and security of dangerous, mentally ill patients.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

Under general supervision, provides direct patient care and ward security at a maximum security hospital. Responsibilities may include providing informal counseling, implementing treatment plans, observing and documenting patients' behavior, and verbal and/or physical crisis intervention. 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.)

Implements established hospital security procedures in order to maintain harmony on the living units and minimize aggressive patient behaviors and patient escapes. This is accomplished by applying appropriate disciplinary and containment procedures to subdue aggressive patients and settle altercations, confrontations, and other crises situations as they occur; supervising patient visits; searching all new admissions and patients re-entering building from non-restricted areas; and documenting all security and disciplinary actions in incident reports, shift reports, and charts.

Enforces unit rules and encourages patient participation in unit government/program activities to insure that the unit has a therapeutic environment. This is accomplished by orienting newly admitted patients and transfers to unit policies and procedures; reminding, encouraging and/or assisting patients in meeting daily appointments and obligations (e.g. therapy sessions, daily personal hygiene, and custodial tasks); and facilitating group meetings and/or activities as assigned.

Counsels patients informally in order to help them adapt to the hospital environment and learn more positive ways to interact with others. This is accomplished by following treatment strategy developed by the professional treatment team; projecting a positive, approachable, supportive attitude which is conducive to a constructive patient interaction; and documenting therapeutic activity and treatment outcomes in regular reports to the treatment team.

Develops and implements social and recreational activities so that patients can improve their health, social interactions, and use of leisure time. This is accomplished by organizing and encouraging patients to participate in activities, tournaments and special events.

Observes and documents patients' behavior so that information about patients' progress is available to the professional staff. This is accomplished by reading patients' charts to familiarize self with patients' history; recording narrative, objective descriptions of patients' activities, attitudes, behavior and interactions in charts; documenting significant events (e.g. violent acts, threats, disciplinary procedures) in appropriate form; and communicating sudden behavioral or physical changes immediately to professional staff.

Escorts patients to off-site appointments and community outings in order to assist them in community reorientation and foster increased patient responsibility and self reliance. This is accomplished by taking patients to the bank, shopping centers, and surrounding communities as specified in treatment plans; helping patients to select and purchase needed personal grooming aids; and documenting behaviors and attitudes exhibited during trips in patients' charts.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Psychiatric terminology and theory sufficient to communicate with professional staff regarding treatment plans, patients' history and patients' progress.

Unit rules, policies and procedures sufficient to ensure fair and consistent implementation.

Therapeutic intervention and containment techniques and security policies and procedures sufficient to effectively deal with altercations, confrontations, and other crises situations that might occur.

First aid sufficient to administer emergency treatment.

Skill in:

Human relations sufficient to informally counsel, motivate, and assist patients in daily activities and to respond effectively to emergencies.

Oral and written communication sufficient to issue well organized and informative reports on patients' progress to professional staff.

Ability to:

Observe and report on patients' behaviors and progress.

Follow and implement oral and written direction sufficient to comply with detailed regulations.

Complete required forms and documentation of patient incidents.

Est.: 4/40T.C.: 2/87
Rev.: 7/67; 2/87; 4/91

Former Title(s): Attendant Guard