

Rehabilitation Nurse Job Description

Position Overview

A rehabilitation nurse works specifically in a rehabilitation facility – in or outpatient capacity. However, a rehabilitation nurse does not only provide assistance with rehab work – a person working at this position will also be responsible for the overall health and comfort of the patient he or she has been assigned. A rehabilitation nurse performs the duties of a regular nurse as well as those that are particular to the rehabilitation of the assigned patient.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO DO THE JOB

Educated to degree level or working towards.
Relevant qualification and 2 years relevant experience in a specialist area.
Ability to fulfil criteria outlined in the job description
Demonstrates flexibility in working practice.
Knowledge of current best practice in chosen specialty
Experience or commitment to interdisciplinary working
Advanced communication skills
Ability to work independently

Qualifications/Training

First Level Registered Nurse
Educated to degree level/ educated to Diploma level

Requirements

To work as a rehabilitation nurse, one has to possess a bachelor's degree in nursing, some experience as a registered nurse, and certification from the Rehabilitation Nursing Certificate Board is preferred. Rehabilitation is just one of the many genres that one can work in after acquiring the required nursing degree and experience. As a rehabilitation nurse, it will be your responsibility to ensure that the assigned patients is provided both medical and holistic care that he or she requires, in order to get back into the groove of things. Many rehabilitation nurses also provide care to terminally ill patients, aiming to make their last months, weeks or days easy.

As a rehabilitation nurse, you will need one basic attribute to succeed – empathy. Since you will be working with patients who are frustrated due to their inability to cope with their physical and / or mental conditions, you will need to be patient and understanding as well.

- Assess and evaluate patients to determine the cause and effects of illnesses, diseases and conditions

- Work with doctors and other rehabilitation team members to develop individualized care plans for all assigned patients
- Confer with patients' families to determine any special circumstances and ensure that any significant information is included in the patients' files
- Provide companionship to patients throughout the rehabilitation procedure in a bid to keep them comfortable and earn their trust
- Educate patients and families to help them adjust to the changes in their lives brought on by accidents or illnesses
- Teach life skills to patients who may have lost them due to injury or chronic illnesses
- Act as patient advocate by actively listening, reflecting and guiding them through grieving processes
- Ascertain that each patient thrives in a safe and comfortable environment by ensuring that any hazards or problems are kept at bay
- Intervene with other members of the rehabilitation program to ensure that optimal opportunity for recovery is made available to patients

- First-hand experience in conducting intake evaluations by screening, interviewing and examining patients according to established procedures.

- Deeply familiar with performing patient and family education and counseling, in a bid to help both come to terms with the changes in their lives.
- Unmatched ability to create and implement patient-centered rehabilitation plans that align with the priorities set by attending physicians and related disciplines.
- Qualified to providing rehabilitation support that is of the highest possible quality, and completely patient-centered.
- Competent in using a holistic approach to meeting assigned patients' medical, vocational and educational needs.
- To take responsibility for the maintenance, repair and infection control of nursing equipment. Reporting back to other Disciplines within the team on any changes regarding their specialist equipment.
- To understand, appropriately select and monitor safe use of equipment (ADL, Physiotherapy and nursing) including recommendations for special orders and to make referrals where necessary.
- Be competent in the use of medical devices and all other equipment used in the service.
- Exceptionally well-versed in preparing patients and their families for future self-management and decision-making responsibilities.
- Proven record of effectively assessing the physical, psychological and spiritual dimensions of patients and families, in a bid to formulate nursing diagnostics.
- Effectively able to implement plans of care directly to maintain and restore functions, and prevent complications in the future.
- Maintain patient records in line with hospital guidelines and policies for records and record keeping.

Working Conditions

- Undertakes lone working within Lone Worker Policy and Guidelines.
- Exposure to bodily fluids (urine, faeces, blood)
- Exposure to body odors,

- Exposure to infectious diseases
- Exposure to hazardous environments.
- Dealing with abusive patients or careers – this may be physical or verbal
- Shift turn over.

Physical Demands of the Job:

- Perform manual handling techniques with patients who may have cognitive, physical or behavioral problems. E.g. immobile, obese, unpredictable patients.
- May adopt static postures for lengthy periods whilst assessing dependent patients (e.g. after stroke or spinal injury)
- Periods of time using equipment. This requires self-awareness of postures and positioning of equipment/seating etc.
- Moving and handling equipment of varying size and weight from inpatient site to other patients area ; commodes, trolleys, toilet frames,
- Frequent moving and handling of equipment within confined spaces in patients 'setting.
- Moving and handling of patients.

Adheres to the following environmental care standards.

- Follows Infection Control procedures at all times.
- Demonstrates adequate knowledge of Safety Policies and Procedures, the use of Materials Safety Data Sheets, hazardous material procedures, and Safety Codes.
- Demonstrates adequate knowledge of Security issues, i.e. personal protection, protection of personal and hospital property.
- Disposes of sharps in puncture resistant boxes
- Washes hands and other skin surfaces with soap and water thoroughly and immediately if contaminated with blood or other body fluids and before and after patient contact.
- Strictly adheres to Standard Precautions at all times as applicable.
- Uses appropriate barriers precautions when participating in invasive procedures. Wears gloves, goggles, and surgical masks for certain procedures as per infection control policy.
- Ensures that all specimens of blood and body fluids are put in a well – constructed container with a secure lid to prevent leaking during transport and places specimen containers in biohazardous coded plastic bag for transport.

Maintains knowledge base related to customer service and customer satisfaction.

- Practices effective communication and customer service skills with all customer groups.
- Maintain customer service principles.
- work towards customer satisfaction
- Assess level of customer satisfaction with clinical as well as support services.

Prepared to meet all crisis situations in a calm therapeutic manner

- O Knows the crash cart status and location at all times. Ensures that nurses adhere to standards for checking and replenishing the crash cart when assigned
- O Identifies emergency drugs and their location on the crash cart and know their use side effects.
- O Identifies equipment and explains its proper use and application.

- O Initiates CPR correctly and without delay.

- O Ensures that events are documented accurately on the code sheet.

References

American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) (1992). Role and functions of the Rehab nurse NHS job description .
HMC old performance evaluation for nurses .

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