

## **HOME HEALTH AIDE**

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This position exists in the Oneida County Department of Public Health and involves providing personal care assistance to patients receiving certified home health agency or long term health care services in the normal activities of daily living at their places of residence. The tasks provided involve simple health care, personal hygiene services, housekeeping and related supportive services designed to allow incapacitated patients the opportunity of remaining at home rather than requiring institutionalization. The services provided are prescribed by a physician in accordance with the patient's plan of treatment. Incumbents will work in close cooperation with, and under the guidance and direction of either a Public Health, Community Health or Registered Professional Nurse and/or other appropriate health care professional from a certified home health agency or long term home health care program. Does related work as required.

**TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:** (Illustrative Only)

- Bathes patients and gives personal hygienic care such as combing hair, brushing teeth, cleaning fingernails, etc;
- Helps patient to the bathroom and in use of bed pan;
- Assists patient in performing exercises or simple procedures prescribed by appropriate professional health care personnel as an extension of physical, speech or occupational therapy;
- Changes linen, makes beds and performs other simple housekeeping tasks to provide a suitable living environment for the patient;
- Plans and prepares meals for patients which may involve cooking and shopping visits to markets or stores to obtain food supplies;
- Cleans, dusts, washes dishes and performs a variety of other light housekeeping tasks essential to patient home health care;
- Cares for patient's clothing, including washing, ironing and simple mending;
- Discusses patient problems relative to the home health aide function with the Community or Public Health Nurse and/or other health care professional in charge;
- May prepare simple reports on patient daily living activities related to the home health function;
- May assist patient in taking self-administered medication, prescribed by a physician.

**FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL**

**CHARACTERISTICS:** Ability to understand and carry out non-technical oral and written directions; ability to get along well with others and gain the cooperation of patients; ability to perform light house-keeping tasks including shopping for food supplies and cooking; emotional and mental maturity; sympathetic attitude in caring for the sick; dependability; neat appearance.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Completion of basic training program in personal care services for Home Health Aides approved by the New York State Office of Health Systems Management.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:** State Hospital Code, Section 400.23, effective April 1, 2005 requires prospective employees of a licensed home care services agency, certified home health agency, long-term care program or AIDS home care program who will provide direct care or supervision to patients must undergo a criminal history record check prior to employment. An applicant may be employed on a conditional basis for 60 days pending the outcome of the criminal history record check. This does not apply to an employee who is required to have a license under the Education Law.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:** Certain assignments made to employees in this class will require access to transportation to meet field work requirements in a timely and efficient manner.

Adopted: 5/31/1972

Revised: 10/31/72; 6/8/73; 3/2/82; 5/31/96; 9/19/96