



Job Code: 1816
Grade: PA1
HCWR: N

Job Title
Physician Assistant

Department
Nephrology/Dialysis

Job Summary

In collaboration with the Chair of the Division of Renal Disease-Nephrology, the Physician Assistant (PA) provides exceptional care to a diverse patient population with renal diseases. The PA provides comprehensive health care by managing patients from pre-dialysis in the outpatient chronic kidney disease (CKD) clinics, rounding on in-patient End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) service and the dialysis units, and post hospital follow up for continuity of care. The PA is responsible for monitoring and adjusting dialysis treatments and medications based on lab results, and order appropriate referrals, as necessary. The PA Maintains professional and technical knowledge through continued educational programs and workshops supporting emerging healthcare trends. The PA will offer group education classes for the promotion of kidney health and chronic kidney disease/renal replacement therapy. Performs duties within the legal guidelines of the Cook County Health (CCH) policies.

Typical Duties

- Manages and provides independent care for CKD patients in out-patient renal clinics through managing a panel of patient with chronic kidney disease inclusive of diagnosing and treating patients with hypertension and renal diseases: facilitating health maintenance and wellness through prevention; prescribing medications, diet, supplies and other health aides; performs clinical procedures as delegated by the collaborating physician.
- Conducts history and physical exams and develops a plan of care in accordance with guidelines established by the attending physician, nephrologist.
- Conducts dialysis rounds, writes outpatient and inpatient dialysis orders, monitors patients' weights, adjusts fluids to accommodate volume shifts, and adjusts medications according to blood pressure and lab values.
- Provides necessary renal/dialysis coverage.
- Participates in monthly care plans for CCH out-patient dialysis patients
- Orders, performs, interprets, and implements appropriate action for laboratory and other diagnostic tests.
- Obtains informed consent for procedures performed and provides ongoing renal care.
- Assumes primary responsibility for interviewing patients to obtain comprehensive health history in hypertension and/or renal diseases. Strong communication skills are necessary.
- Must be flexible to cover separate renal clinic sessions program.
- Participates in one half-day per month for dialysis quality initiative and quality assurance, and other clinical projects with physicians.
- Educates and counsels patients on treatment options and expected outcomes and provides education classes for patients with renal disease.
- Coordinates continuity of care between the hospital and other health care settings.
- Participate in monthly renal conferences, interdisciplinary staff development in hypertension and renal diseases.
- Identifies and communicates with collaborating physician any patient care issues; offers research guided recommendations for improvement initiatives, if applicable.



Typical Duties

- Adheres to quality and patient safety standards set forth by CCH.
- Adheres to infection control policies and protocols, i.e., hand hygiene.
- Prescribes and dispenses medications utilizing best practices.
- Complies with federal, state and local legal and professional requirements.
- Maintains professional licensing requirements and technical knowledge through continued educational programs and workshops supporting emerging healthcare trends.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- Successful completion of a Physician Assistant Program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) or proof of completion of ARC-PA program two (2) weeks prior to hire date
- Completion and maintenance of certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) or eligibility to obtain certification of Physician Assistant (NCCPA) or eligibility to obtain certification two (2) weeks prior to hire date
- Current valid State of Illinois Physician Assistant License OR temporary license as a Physician Assistant from the State of Illinois or eligibility to obtain license two (2) weeks prior to hire date
- Current Physician Assistant Controlled Substance License in the State of Illinois or ability to obtain prior to employment.
- Active Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) License within 6 months of hire date
- Valid Basic Life Support (BLS) certification

Preferred Qualifications

- One (1) year of experience working in a dialysis unit or managing patients with Chronic Kidney Disease in a health care setting including primary care
- Bilingual

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Other Characteristics

- Knowledge of proper hand hygiene and hand washing techniques
- Knowledge of infectious control policies and procedures
- Thorough knowledge of Physician Assistant practices and principles and the ability to apply them in a clinical setting.
- Excellent Physician Assistant clinical and technical skills
- Knowledge and skill to perform mathematical accuracy in measuring and dispensing medication
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills necessary to communicate with all levels of staff and a patient population composed of diverse cultures and age groups
- Strong customer service and empathy skills
- Demonstrates good computer and typing skills
- Demonstrate good phone and email etiquette skills with strong response times
- Demonstrate analytical and organizational, problem-solving, critical thinking, and conflict management/resolution skills



Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Other Characteristics

- Demonstrate attention to detail, accuracy and precision

Physical and Environmental Demands

This position is functioning within a healthcare environment. The incumbent is responsible for adherence to all hospital and department specific safety requirements. This includes but is not limited to the following policies and procedures: complying with Personal Protective Equipment requirements, hand washing and sanitizing practices, complying with department specific engineering and work practice controls and any other work area safety precautions as specified by hospital wide policy and departmental procedures.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of the personnel so classified.

For purposes of the American with Disabilities Act, “Typical Duties” are essential job functions.