

Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialist Job Description

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provides detailed clinical expertise in a specific area of nursing practice such as oncology, mental health, and adult medicine
- Develops and ensures quality standards of nursing practice for the geriatric patient population is adhered to
- Provides education for advanced clinical practice, consultation, research, and administration
- Institutes and monitors care standards and makes recommendations for changes in area of clinical practice where necessary
- Work with nursing staff in performing assessment of patient and family age-specific nursing needs, as well as develops plan of care for complex high-risk patients
- Evaluates the effectiveness of the patient-care provided
- Designs teaching programs for patients/families and provides assistance to nursing staff in the program implementation of programs
- Work with members of the healthcare team to assess staff knowledge and identify competency-based education needs of staff and members
- Design and implement educational programs to ensure the quality of staff knowledge and skills
- Introduces new techniques/innovation based on advanced practice trends to improve patient care delivery
- Functions as a preceptor to graduate healthcare students
- Delivers consultation to physicians, nurses, and other health care providers in delivering care needs of individual or groups of patients in both outpatient and inpatient situations
- Makes recommendations to improve patient-care standards or nursing practice standards on the basis of research findings
- Defines and promulgates best nursing practices
- Assists in conducting staff interviews and provides input into evaluations regarding clinical competence and provides coaching and counseling

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- Contributes and provides consultations in setting the direction for QA&I monitoring, instituting standards, and evaluating outcomes
- Collects and analyzes data concerning patient care outcomes, morbidity, mortality, and trends
- Oversees clinical operations, and evaluates the quality of care provided
- Monitors quality, appropriateness, and accuracy of patient-care documentation.

Geriatric Clinical Nurse Specialist Requirements – Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- Education: A minimum of a Bachelor's degree – Master's degree in a clinical field of nursing or a clinical field related to nursing, including but not limited to psychology, public health, behavioral sciences, health sciences, social work, education, nutrition, and bioethics from a nationally accredited Master's/post Master's nursing academic program
- Experience: A minimum of 3 years nursing experience in an area of clinical specialty is required
- License: Registered Nurse (RN) license and Clinical Nurse Specialist license is required
- Certification: CPR, ACLS, and/or BLS certification is required. However, certification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CCNS) is strongly preferred
- Communication Skills: It is important for the geriatric clinical specialist to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing because they serve as an educator and consultant providing specialized care to a geriatric patient population
- Coaching skills: They require effective teaching skills to provide education and counseling for patients/families as well as nursing staff to enhance the quality of staff knowledge and skills
- Planning Skills: Their job requires that they are skilled in treatment planning to provide appropriate patient care, as well plan educational programs, hence it is important that they develop planning skills
- Sound judgment: They require this skill to be able to effectively assess and evaluate patient-care delivery provided

- Computer skills: They should possess a working knowledge of computers, especially in using MS Office applications.