UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka

JOB DESCRIPTION

ROLE TITLE: Practice Nurse

DEPARTMENT: Student Health Services

SCHOOL / DIVISION: Student Services

REPORTS TO: Nursing Clinical Group Leader (CGL)
Head of Service, Student Health Services

DIRECT REPORTS (FTE): Nil

INDIRECT REPORTS (FTE): Nil

1. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

To work autonomously and collaboratively to promote, improve, maintain and restore health within the student population in a helpful, supportive and caring manner.

2. ACCOUNTABILITIES:

Practice Nurses are committed to upholding the Principles of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi and incorporate Kawa Whakaruruhau, cultural safety, within the Maori context as well as its broader application, to encompass and acknowledge all individuals in their uniqueness and diversity; to achieve the shared goal of health and wellbeing for University of Otago students.

Practice nursing in this setting will encompass population health, health promotion, disease prevention, wellness care, first-point-of-contact care and disease management across the lifespan but predominantly with late adolescence and young adults.

Position Specific Accountabilities

Accepts responsibilities for ensuring that their nursing practice and conduct meets ethical, professional body and relevant legislative requirements, acting as a resource, role model or leader as appropriate.

- Comply with Nursing Council of NZ regulations and Student Health Services (SHS) policies when making decisions regarding delegation of care and providing direction to clinical assistant and others and seek advice appropriately.
- Have knowledge of and access SHS and University of Otago policies to guide nursing practice and ensure consistency for students, respecting the students' right to choose care.
- Apply ethical principles and reflection in own nursing practice.
- Discuss and seek guidance on professional/ethical/social/cultural issues related to nursing practice.
- Participate in evaluation of own clinical and cultural practice, seeking guidance and support for practice.

- Ensure practice is evidenced based and incorporates feedback from SHS health professional team members.
- Proactive in seeking professional development opportunities to extend knowledge.

Promotes an environment that ensures the safety of students / SHS team members and others, acting as a resource, role model or leader as appropriate.

- Identify and manage risks as applicable to:
  - Infection control/communicable disease.
  - Health and safety/environmental issues including Cold chain policy.
  - Incident reporting.
  - Cultural safety.
  - Physical safety of students/self/others.
  - Student non-compliance.
  - Security.
- Implement nursing responses and policies for risk management within SHS.
- Recognise and respond to changes in client health status including critical or unexpected events, being able to initiate appropriate/immediate response.
- Refer students as appropriate to other members of the SHS health professional team.

Participates in continuous quality improvement activities to monitor and improve standards of nursing acting as a resource, role model or leader as appropriate.

- Incorporate quality improvement principles into own nursing practice (e.g. peer review, attendance at regular SHS meetings, clinical governance).
- Identify and participate in quality improvement activities within practice environment, including clinical audit, consumer survey, writing and implementing policies, guidelines and protocols; implementing changes in practice as required.
- Challenging situations/practices that do not meet required quality standards, implementing changes in as required.

Uses a wellness focus when applying the nursing process to achieve patient outcomes acting as a resource, role model or leader as appropriate.

- Maintain therapeutic relationships and professional boundaries in nursing practice, in a culturally safe manner.
- Recognise the importance of and utilise alternative processes for Maori and students of other cultural/ethnic backgrounds to enhance partnership, seeking guidance and support as required.
- Maintain clear, concise timely accurate and current client records within a legal and ethical framework (using competent computer skills).
- Demonstrate responsibility/accountability/ competence and knowledge in medication administration, use of standing orders and evidence based treatments and interventions with a particular focus on minor illness/injury, sexual/contraceptive health, chronic disease management, health promotion and reducing harm in the student population.

Enables individuals and student communities to increase control over the determinants of health, acting as a resource, role model or leader as appropriate.

- Proactive in health promotion, illness prevention and management, applying nursing practice and community development.
- Ensure that education to students is consistent, timely, culturally safe and appropriate for their needs and follows current evidence and guidelines and that the student understands relevant information related to their health care.

- Use tikanga Maori concepts relevant to health promotion practices, seeking assistance as necessary.

Communicates effectively with students and health team members acting as a resource, role model or leader as appropriate.

- Use a variety of communication skills to establish rapport and trust with students accessing culturally appropriate services if necessary e.g.: interpreter / kaumatua.
- Demonstrates skills in problem solving, working as collaborative team member and seeks assistance as required.
- Advocate for student when student requests support or has limited abilities in decision making.

Works in collaboration with other health professionals to offer access to comprehensive services that improve, maintain and restore health, acting as a resource, role model or leader as appropriate.

- Contributes a nursing perspective and participates with other members of the health care team to meet Primary Health objectives.
- Collaborate, consult with and provide accurate information to the student and other health professionals about prescribed interventions or treatments.
- Co-ordinate, maintain and document timely information to health team members necessary to maximise health outcomes for the student.

*The Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) Domain Competencies * 1- 4 are the operational and performance indicators for the above responsibilities and demonstrate the competencies required.*
(Competencies for the Registered Nurses 2007)*

Designated Nurse Prescriber (voluntary not mandatory).

- Demonstrates initial and on-going knowledge and skills for this role as required by NCNZ.
- Integrates and evaluates knowledge and resources from different disciplines to meet the health care needs of clients effectively.
- Undertakes formal evaluation of competencies and outcomes of Designated Nurse prescribing practice, to maintain safe standards of care and as required by NCNZ.

(Guidelines for Registered nurses prescribing in primary health and specialty teams, September 2016, NCNZ.)

3. KEY RELATIONSHIPS:

Internal

- Students.
- University staff - Academic and Operations.
- Risk, Assurance and Compliance Office.
- Office of Sustainability.
- Health and Safety.
- Human Resources.

External

- Otago University Students' Association.
- Local Social Agencies.
- Southern District Health Board and associated PHO.
- Primary Health Care Practices and Community NGO's.
- Laboratories.

- ACC.
- Ministry of Health.
- Relevant professional bodies.

4. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

Essential
- Registered Nurse with commitment to undertake on-going professional development and career development (within Career and Professional Framework - Student Health Practice Nurses).
- Interest in student/young adult health with demonstrated commitment and understanding of developmental influences on young adults.

Preferred
- Good knowledge of drug, alcohol, sexual health and other aspects of behaviours relevant to risk taking by young adults.
- Previous experience working in a primary health environment.

5. TECHNICAL SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE:

Essential
- Collaborative, with the ability to develop and maintain effective professional relationships with colleagues in a multidisciplinary team.
- Critical thinking and problem solving skills relevant to position.
- Effective communicator with the ability to write clear, user friendly documentation for multidisciplinary healthcare purposes.
- Flexible, adaptable and professional during uncertainty and ambiguity.
- Competent in using technical health software, adaptable to new processes and technologies.
- High level of self-motivation; able to organise own workload and work in a variety of settings - from delegated tasks to autonomous consultations.
- Commitment to on-going quality improvement.

6. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Capability to work in an environment where exposure to infectious diseases may occur.
- Expectation of relevant vaccination and immunity screening history.
- Meets Children's Act requirements.

7. DIRECT BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY:

Nil

8. MĀORI STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

Act in a manner consistent with the principles and implications, as well as the University's commitment to the Te Tiriti o Waitangi as articulated in the Māori Strategic Framework.

9. PACIFIC STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

Act in a manner consistent with the strategies and goals contained in the University's Pacific Strategic Framework, role-modelling and promoting Pacific values, equity and diversity principles and cultural safety practices.

10. HEALTH & SAFETY:

Act and work in a manner compliant with current health and safety at work legislation and University procedures, frameworks and guidelines. Role model safe behaviour and practices, share the responsibility to prevent harm and contribute to a safe campus and work environment, including raising workplace health and safety concerns for self, students, visitors and other staff.

11. EQUITY:

Act in a manner consistent with the University's equity, diversity and inclusion commitments, as articulated in the Equity and Diversity Strategic framework and University equity policies.

12. SUSTAINABILITY:

Act in a manner consistent with the University's sustainability commitments; role-modelling sustainable practices, with a particular emphasis on minimising the environmental impact of day-to-day activities.