Iowa Department of Administrative Services – Human Resources Enterprise
Classification Series Guidelines

Nurse Series

Classes in the Series

Class Code	Class Title
02020/82020	Registered Nurse
02021/52021	Nurse Clinician
02026	Nurse Specialist
02027	Nurse Practitioner

Series Concept

This series includes positions licensed by the Iowa Board of Nursing to apply professional nursing knowledge and skills in providing for the care of the physically and mentally ill or applying the knowledge and skills in the State Medical Examiner's Office or a public health program.

Exclusions

The following are excluded from classification within this series:

1. Positions performing regulatory and investigative work which affects the certification or licensure of nursing personnel or health facilities are classified in the appropriate class of Nursing Standards Representative, Health Facilities Surveyor, or Health Professions Investigator.
2. Positions applying professional nursing knowledge to administer a district/regional genetics program or perform professional research, analysis, and counseling work in a statewide community health program are classified in the Community Health Consultant job class.

Class Distinctions

Registered Nurse

Performs direct client care; applies professional nursing knowledge and skills; leads assistive nursing staff (i.e., Licensed Practical Nurses [LPNs] and Resident Treatment Workers [RTWs]) in nursing aspects of client care; or reviews medical records of decedents and assists in the duties and responsibilities of the State Medical Examiner's Office; or plans/conducts educational sessions for staff, affiliating students and members of the community, including classroom or on-site sessions that require a registered nurse.

Nurse Clinician

In a state health care-oriented facility, writes client care plans; conveys and interprets these plans to professional and assistive nursing staff; teaches registered nurses and assistive staff in the nursing aspects of the medical specialty (geriatrics, mental health, intellectual disabilities; public health: pediatrics, maternal/child health, etc.).

At the Iowa Veteran's Home, specifically, employees have performed direct client care duties as a registered nurse for five years and are assigned one of the specialized nurse clinician duties described above. The Iowa Veterans Home's service/duty requirements are not applicable to other institutions or jurisdictions for qualification purposes.

In a non-health care oriented facility, employees plan and direct total nursing services.

In public health program areas, employees plan, develop, and evaluate statewide services/programs to promote the health of mothers, children, adolescents, adults, and older adults.

Nurse Specialist

In a health care facility, Nurse Specialists identify, plan and implement facility-wide programming in specialty areas* to include educational needs for staff; and manage advanced nursing care of a selected client population. They develop, implement and evaluate clinical criteria, develop health educational programs for staff and clients, and provide consultation in these areas of nursing practice and program development for nursing supervisors, clinicians, and nurses. They may apply nursing informatics knowledge in the management and maintenance of a clinical information system, such as an electronic clinical medical record, to support workflow, efficiency, and documentation efforts. This includes leading staff education on the use of the system in documentation and the care planning process.

*Specialty areas include geriatrics; physical deterioration; physical mobility and rehabilitation; Alzheimer's; infection control; ulcerations; group therapy and counseling in areas of depression, personal health, etc.

Nurse Practitioner

Assures effectiveness of care, treatment and management of clients in a health care facility and demonstrates competency in assessment, diagnosis and treatment of clients who require medical/nursing supervision of chronic conditions, complications of aging and clients with severe disability. The Nurse Practitioner performs independent, advanced practice nursing by providing primary health care, and reporting directly to a medical or nursing director. The Nurse Practitioner is licensed as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) by the Iowa Board of Nursing, and is responsible for independently managing clients' health care status within a state health care facility. These positions perform assessments, prescribe therapies and manage clients' health care status.

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