



VOLUNTEER SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

ASSIGNMENT TITLE

Geriatric Psychiatry - Oasis Program

PURPOSE

Volunteers will provide sources of hydration to the patients on the Geriatric Psychiatry Unit. This unit includes a population aged 65 and older with mental illnesses and most with co-existing medical diseases. Due to dementia, confusion, delirium, psychosis, agitation, wandering or disruptive behavior these patients are unable to stay adequately hydrated. Volunteers will visit the patients offering various forms of fluids to help the nurses provide a therapeutic environment and general supportive nursing care to meet the patients' basic hydration needs. Proper hydration maintains fluid volume and promotes electrolyte balance which helps prevent urinary tract infections, dehydration and nutritional deficiencies.

SUPERVISING PERSONNEL

Director, Volunteer Services
Manager, Geriatric Psychiatry

TRAINING and EDUCATION

- Must complete general orientation provided by the Department of Volunteer Services.
- Participate in on-the-job training provided by staff or trained volunteers.

DAYS, HOURS, LOCATION

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

12:00pm – 2:00pm

2:00pm – 4:00pm

Sunday – Saturday

Neurosciences – 4th floor South

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Push hydration carts filled with various drinks, such as Boost, ensure, fruit juice, water and soft drinks to offer the patients throughout the day.
- Visit with the patients and encourage and assist them to drink something.

- In conversation remind the patient of the day and time and other communications to help maintain cognition.

PROCEDURES

1. Report to the Charge Nurse.
2. Get the hydration cards for patients to be visited.
3. Review the cards with the appropriate nurses to ensure that patient preferences and NPO status is correct.
4. Introduce yourself to the patients when you enter the room, saying the patient's name, stating what day it is, the time and any significant current affairs information to help with cognition.
5. Offer limited choice of fluids to the patient per the hydration card. Allow ample time for the patient to respond.
6. Encourage patients to drink by engaging them in conversation or helping as needed.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Must demonstrate competency in age specifics, HIPAA, and HEOSH information.
- Must be able to communicate with diverse population.
- Must be able to follow directions from staff.
- Understand the need for confidentiality and ability to maintain such.
- Knowledge of hospital layout, especially those areas that relate to needs of your unit.
- Must be able to walk for long distances.

PERSONAL SKILLS, ABILITIES, KNOWLEDGE

- Desire for hands-on nursing care
- Patience and empathy for this patient population
- Ability to portray an atmosphere of calm, avoid rushing, speak in quiet tones, and give simple directions.
- Must be a self-starter
- Ability to work with detailed information and follow directions.
- Have a friendly, positive attitude
- Ability to converse in Spanish is very helpful

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENT

- Requires walking, standing, sitting, lifting and reaching
- Ability to push/pull up to 25 pounds
- Must be able to read and speak English in simple, understandable terms
- Must have intact sense of sight and hearing

PATIENT POPULATION SERVED

- Demonstrates knowledge of the principles of growth and development and possesses the ability to respond to age specific issues and data reflective of the patient's status.
- Demonstrates the knowledge and skills necessary to provide care for the following age groups: Neonate, Infant, Child, Adolescent, Older Adult

PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

- Will limit access to protected health information (PHI) to the information reasonably necessary to do the job.
- Will share information only on a need-to-know basis for work purposes.
- Access to verbal, written and electronic PHI for this position has been determined based on assignment responsibility.

MACHINES, TOOLS and EQUIPMENT

Telephone, copier, FAX, computer and required application, and wheelchairs.

LENGTH OF COMMITMENT

Prefer at least a one-year commitment to provide consistent care for the patients and to develop a relationship with the staff.

Director, Volunteer Services

Nurse Manager, Geriatric Psychiatry

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of service being performed by volunteers assigned this service description. They are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of duties, skills, and responsibilities for people assigned.

12/02

Revised: 7/05