Nurse Practitioner

The nurse practitioner is an independently licensed nurse with advanced preparation in a specialized area of clinical practice who provides front line medical evaluation and care of patients at the Warren G. Magnuson Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health. The nurse practitioner maintains a high level of clinical competence in an area of specialty practice integrating the art and science of both nursing and medicine into practice. This activity will be performed in collaboration with other members of the multidisciplinary health care team including but not limited to: research physicians and scientists, therapists, social workers, pharmacists, nutritionists, technicians, clinical research nurses, nurse specialists and a variety of support and ancillary staff. The nurse practitioner practice includes the screening of new patients who are candidates for protocols, medically managing them while on a protocol and providing their follow-up care. This activity is performed in both the in-patient and outpatient setting. This position practices within the Nurse Practice Act of the State of Maryland and the Medical Board of the Clinical Center with an approved Physician Agreement. The NP will maintain licensure as a Nurse Practitioner in the State of Maryland.

Major Duties and Responsibilities Include:

1. Functions independently as a certified nurse practitioner for a patient population in collaboration with a senior medical staff person.

2. Independently assesses acute and non-acute clinical problems. Performs and documents physical assessments and patient histories, analyzes trends in patient conditions, and develops, documents and implements a patient management plan in response to the data obtained. This also includes assisting in the development of the nursing plan of care in addition to providing appropriate patient/ family counseling and education.

3. Patient management includes the following: 1) writing admission, transfer and discharge orders; 2) ordering and interpreting appropriate laboratory and diagnostic studies: 3) ordering of appropriate medication and treatments; 4) referring patients for consultation when indicated i.e. dermatology, neurology, ophthalmology, endocrine, surgery, intensive care, infectious disease, hematology, psychiatry, social service, and dietary; 5) documentation through in-depth progress notes and dictation summaries.

4. Independently perform a variety of invasive procedures upon the completion of certification. These procedures will be dictated by the patient population the NP is working with and may include but is not limited to lumbar puncture, bone marrow biopsy, thoracentesis, paracentesis, fine needle aspirate, Omaya reservoir access, central line removal, arterial blood gas, suturing and skin punch biopsy.
5. Participates in patient care rounds and conferences. Communicates patient management strategies to members of the patient care team. Assists investigators in the execution of research protocols with active involvement in a select number of protocols as an associate investigator.

6. Serves in a leadership position and is recognized as an expert in a specialty area serving as consultant and role model to other health care professionals both within the institution and outside.

7. Acts as a preceptor to graduate students enrolled in nurse practitioner programs and to new nurse practitioners hired into the Clinical Center.