

## Physician Extender I

### Primary Purpose of Position:

Professional work in augmenting the primary health care physician in the health department. Approval to practice medical acts includes giving a medical diagnosis, ordering therapy, and prescribing medications outlined in the approved formulary. **Work will be primarily with our Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) clinic. Applicant should have experience working with MOUD.**

### Work Schedule

This position is part-time. Hours will be between 8 am and 6 pm Monday thru Friday with occasional evening or weekend work as needed due to unique situations.

### DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

1. Employee will obtain a thorough patient history and physical examination, perform appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, record develop and maintain health care or therapeutic plans, counsel patients, and review treatment plan with physician through chart review process.
2. Daily work is self-planned and performed with considerable independence. Major changes or short-range plans are coordinated with supervising physician and other members of the health care team (i.e., pharmacist, nursing, nutritionist, other medical providers etc.).
3. The employee makes medical decisions in a limited area and the physician assists as needed. Unusual conditions, complex problems, and conditions outside the approved area of expertise are referred to a physician, as outlined in the patient care protocols and medical guidelines.

Protocols and guidelines are established and relate to specific work procedures; unusual and complex patient conditions in the area must be referred to the supervising physician for diagnosis and treatment. Guidelines include the medical protocol approved by the physician, agency policies and procedures, reference manuals, and program guidelines and standards

### Guides, Regulations, Policies and References Used by Employee:

Employees at this level receive some technical review periodically during the work process. Unusual conditions, complex problems, and conditions outside the approved area of expertise are referred to a physician, as outlined in the patient care protocols and medical guidelines.

Patient care protocols and medical guidelines are varied and broad to cover the patient's presenting conditions. Guidelines include the medical protocols approved by the supervising physician; program-specific requirements/guidelines that also outline work procedures; State and Federal regulations and guidelines, MCHD policies, and other applicable rules and recommendations which must be adhered to. Utilize and reference medical and nursing books/journals (to include on-line journals and professional data-bases ex: Lexicomp, epocrates, CDC, USPSTF); medical and agency protocols and up-to-date procedure manuals; State and local Program Manuals; State and Federal Regulations pertinent to Public Health and to the practice of Family Nurse Practitioners.

### Supervision Received by Employee:

- Clinical decisions that reflect upon the agency and major program changes are reviewed by the Health Director. Physician Extender I must practice within the scope of licensure and in accordance with the Nursing Practice Act under the supervision of a primary and back-up physician(s), who are responsible for the Physician Extender practice.
- Availability: The primary or back-up supervising physician(s) and the nurse practitioner shall be continuously available to each other for consultation by direct communication or telecommunication.

### Collaborative Practice Agreement:

1. Shall be agreed upon and signed by both the primary supervising physician and the nurse practitioner and maintained in the health department.
2. Shall be reviewed at least yearly. This review shall be acknowledged by a dated signature sheet, signed by both the primary supervising physician and the nurse practitioner, appended to the collaborative practice agreement and available for inspection by members or agents of either Board.
3. Shall include the drugs, devices, medical treatments, tests, and procedures that may be prescribed, ordered and performed by the nurse practitioner consistent with Rule .0109 of this Subchapter; and
4. Shall include a pre-determined plan for emergency services.

5. The nurse practitioner shall demonstrate the ability to perform medical acts as outlined in the collaborative practice agreement upon request by members or agents of either Board.

**Quality Improvement Process:**

1. The primary supervising physician and the nurse practitioner shall develop a process for the ongoing review of the care provided in each practice site including a written plan for evaluating the quality of care provided for one or more frequently encountered clinical problems.
2. This plan shall include a description of the clinical problem(s), an evaluation of the current treatment interventions, and if needed, a plan for improving outcomes within an identified timeframe.
3. The quality improvement process shall include scheduled meetings between the primary supervising physician and the nurse practitioner. Documentation for each meeting shall:
  - ✓ Identify clinical problems discussed, including progress toward improving outcomes as stated in Subparagraph (d)(2) of this Rule, and recommendations, if any, for changes in treatment plan(s).

Visual Attention, Mental Concentration, and Manipulative Skills:

All the work requires close visual attention and a high degree of mental concentration. In addition, manual dexterity and use of all senses is needed for this work.

Safety for Others:

The Physician Extender I must provide a safe working environment and promote healthy practices within the work settings for clients, other staff, and self. She/He must safely use equipment, provide comprehensive advanced level of practice and health care; prescribe and administer treatment and medication regimens. vaccines/medications to clients, etc. She/He must appropriately dispose of infectious/hazardous, contaminated materials. Must educate families to improve safety in their environment.

Dynamics of Work:

The Physician Extender I is an advanced level of professional work with the ability and delegated authority from the supervising physician to make more independent and varied decisions affecting the patient's treatment plan and total care and is provided in varied settings – clinic, home, and community. He/She must have a broad and in-depth understanding of the medical states presenting and must have a complete understanding of patient care protocols and medical guidelines used in work, and a broader understanding of the health field. Work is performed in an environment that requires the employee to work with a broad variety of patient conditions which requires and in-depth knowledge of the areas of assignment, i.e., managing the medical and therapeutic care plan for Medication for Opioid Use Disorder patients. The broad variety of situations and problems require considerable analysis and interpretation in determining the appropriate course of action. Also important in the performance of the above work is an ability to cooperate with co-workers, and to relate with clients, physicians, and other community staff.

**KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, & ABILITIES:**

Thorough knowledge of techniques of interviewing, medical and relevant history taking, principles and practices of general medicine and disease states as they relate to the area of work; considerable knowledge of health appraisal tools, laboratory tests and findings, material medical, and therapeutic procedures as relate to the area of work; considerable knowledge and ability to plan a regime of care based on assessment and findings; working knowledge of available resources and appropriate referral methods.

Skill in performing clinical functions.

Ability to examine patients and detect abnormalities; ability to record accurately and completely all information necessary to evaluate and plan care and to convey this to the physician; ability to communicate orally; ability to teach and counsel individuals, families, and groups in areas of health maintenance, preventive medicine, and care of the sick; the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff, and to gain the confidence of patients and families and work effectively with them.

**Required Minimum Training (Must match State classification spec)**

- a. Licensed as a Physician Assistant by the North Carolina Medical Board or approved to practice as Nurse Practitioner by the North Carolina Board of Nursing and the North Carolina Medical Board.
- b. Have a X- Waiver on your DEA license that allows you to legally prescribe Buprenorphine/Naloxone

**License or Certification Required by Statute or Regulation:**

\_Physician Assistant: As stated in Statue 90- 9.3

To be eligible for licensure as a physician assistant, an applicant shall submit proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has met all the following:

- The applicant has successfully completed an educational program for physician assistants or surgeon assistants accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant or its predecessor or successor entities.
- The applicant has a current or previous certification issued by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or its successor.
- The applicant is of good moral character.
- Before initiating practice of medical acts, tasks, or functions as a physician assistant, the physician assistant shall provide the Board the name, address, and telephone number of the physician who will supervise the physician assistant in the relevant medical setting.
- The Board may, by rule, require an applicant to comply with other requirements or submit additional information the Board deems appropriate
- DEA number,

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applicants will be given credit only for information provided in response to this announcement. No additional information will be solicited or considered by this office, therefore, persons who submit incomplete applications may not receive full credit for their education, training and experience. Applicants will not automatically be given credit based on their position title.

A NC State Application Form (PD 107) must be submitted to:

Kathy Price

Mailing Address:

Madison County Health Department

493 Medical Park Drive

Marshall, NC 28753

Or Email: [kprice@madisoncountync.gov](mailto:kprice@madisoncountync.gov)

CLOSING DATE: Position is open until filled.