

EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICE UNIT MANUAL

Geriatric Emergency Nurse Clinician Responsibilities		Date Developed:	Revised / Reviewed:	Page Number	Document Number
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Next Review:	Distribution:	Status		Issuing Authority:	
	Emergency Health Service Unit Manual	Final		Human Resources	

Position Overview

The Geriatric Nurse Clinician in the Emergency Department is a registered nurse in an expanded role demonstrating a high level of autonomy and expert skill to formulate clinical decisions and appropriately manage geriatric patients with acute/chronic illness and promote wellness.

The principle responsibilities include utilizing and demonstrating a comprehensive theoretical knowledge base and advance level of clinical competence in caring for elder patients, acting as a resource and serving as a consultant to individuals and groups within the professional community and other hospital/agencies.

Primary Responsibilities

1. Assessment:

- Responsible for completing comprehensive gerontological assessment including active medical problems, past medical history, medication, functional assessment, social history, bedside physical assessment, cognitive assessment and review of lab/x-ray tests and current as well as past health record.
- Conducts geriatric assessment using appropriate screening tools (i.e. mmse Folstien, geriatric depression scale, audiology screening) and clinical cognitive and physical assessment.
- Interview patient, family, family physician and community health professionals to gather extensive past and current history.
- Identify high-risk patients for facilitation of appropriate interdisciplinary follow up.

2. Consultation:

- Develop an intervention plan based on identified needs.
- Communicate assessment findings and recommend interventions plan to appropriate physician and/or staff.
- Facilitate referrals to services, programs and agencies as appropriate.
- Facilitate and advance discharge planning process.
- Provide supportive and counselling to patients and family members to decrease inappropriate admission and repeat emergency visits.
- Negotiate for adequate community supports for patients.

3. Collaboration:

- Collaborate with members of interdisciplinary team and community agencies to obtain provide and exchange information related to patient's health care needs.
- Facilitate formal/informal methods to promote geriatric consult referrals.
- Attend team and family conferences to share geriatric consultation impression and recommendations.

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- Provide resource expertise for patients' families and interdisciplinary team members in management of geriatric patients (e.g. falls, dementias, incontinence, etc.).

Other Duties

1. Capacity Building and Teaching:

- Provide capacity building services to internal and external GEM stakeholders
- Provide clinical teaching to students (e.g. nursing students, nurse practitioners, medical residents, etc.).
- Provide in-services to professional colleagues.
- Provide formal/informal teaching to patients, families, interdisciplinary team members in the management of geriatric patients.
- Provide lectures on areas of professional expertise at in hospital workshops and forums.

2. Research:

- Develop, participate in and evaluate research activities.
- Evaluate practice and program to determine effectiveness.
- Critically analyze and incorporate research/evidence into clinical practice.

Others:

- Complete workload measurement statistics and monthly data as required for effective and efficient program operation (e.g. number of referrals, discharges and dispositions).
- Promote timely response in completing consultations.
- Keep abreast of current trends and issues in gerontology.

Decision Making

Types of decisions the role is involved in making include the following:

- Clinical decisions
- Discharge Planning
- Strategic planning
- Program development

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Education

- Registered Nurse with current certificate of competence issued by the College of Nurses of Ontario
- Masters Degree in Nursing
- Nurse Practitioner Certificate
- Clinical Nurse Specialist Certificate with Geriatric Specialty
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certificate

Experience

- Three years experience in Gerontology
- Experience in Emergency Department setting is preferred
- Advanced Health Assessment

Alternative Combination of Education and Experience If Different From Above

- Nurse Practitioner Certificate and 2 years experience in elder care setting
- Masters Education in Nursing with interest in Geriatric care
- Variety of experience in Geriatric/Emergency and community care settings

Communication Contacts

Internal:

- ER Staff and Physician
-For patient care coordination, clinical issues and education. Daily
- Patients and Family Members
For information related to quality care issues. Daily
- Other physicians, Social Workers, Case coordinators
For consultation and clinical issues. Daily

External:

- Community Healthcare agencies
For planning, coordination of patient care and problem solving. Weekly.
- Professional Associations and contacts
For consultation and collaboration. Monthly

Financial Responsibility

N/A

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Supervisory Responsibilities

N/A

Equipment Used

- Personal Computer and Printer
- Telephone and pager
- Audio visual aids
- Basic office equipment

Physical Work Environment

- Clinical environment
- Office and meeting room environments

Standard Hours of Work

- 37.5 hours per week

REVIEWED BY: