GHR Job Description

Position: Labor & Delivery Nurse

This position description has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees within this classification. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities and qualifications which may be required of the employee assigned to the position. Depending on the size of the facility the job duties may vary. Receipt of the job description does not imply nor create a promise of employment, nor an employment contract of any kind; my employment with the Company is at-will.

Position Summary

Nurses care for people who are sick, injured, convalescent or disabled. Under general supervision, they deliver care to patients utilizing the nursing process of assessment, planning, intervention, implementation, and evaluation, in accordance with established philosophy. Nurses collaborate with other professional disciplines to ensure effective patient care delivery and achievement of desired patient outcomes. Nurses effectively interact with patient and significant others, while maintaining the standard of professional nursing. The nature of the direction and supervision required for this position varies by State and job setting. Labor & Delivery Nurses (L/D Nurses), also called perinatal nurses, provide care and support for women before, during and after delivery of the baby. They are responsible for making sure that the medical as well as the emotional needs of the patient are adequately met throughout the entire birthing process.

Position Responsibilities

L/D Nurses provide direct and individualized nursing care to patients based on the application of scientific nursing principles. In addition to general nursing care, responsibilities of L/D Nurses include (but are not limited to):

- Sits with and monitors patient throughout (before/during/after) the labor
- Monitors contractions and helps patient with breathing techniques
- Performs basic IV and central line skills
- Performs phlebotomy skills
- Knowledge of hemodynamics
- Administers pain medication as ordered; administers other meds to address specific medical conditions, such as hypertension and diabetes
- Takes and records patient’s vital signs, ascertains if problematic
- Reads fetal monitor & ascertains if there is a problem with baby’s heart rate
- Identifies & manages life-sustaining physiological functions in unstable patients
- Checks patient’s cervix periodically to monitor progression/lack of dilation
- Ensures patient’s bed is kept dry & clean; cleans up bodily fluids expelled before & after the birthing process
- Contacts anesthesia when/if patient is ready for epidural; contacts delivering physician at appropriate time, ascertains proper time
- Cares for patients on Pitocin, MgSO4 & continuous lumbar epidural
- Ensures patient is in proper position for delivery & all monitoring equipment is functioning properly
- Aids doctor with drapes, gloves, gowns, etc.; hands doctor delivery instruments as needed during birthing process
- Encourages patient to push at proper time(s)
- Records time of birth
- Immediate care of newborn (clean, weigh, etc.)
- Gives Apgar scores

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- Keeps any family informed of progression of birth
- Performs other position-related duties as assigned, depending on assignment setting

Other Responsibilities

- Completes required orientation as directed by facility
- Follows facility and OSHA safety rules and procedures while on assignment
- Follows facility and GHR Unusual Occurrence Protocol
- Respects cultural and religious practices of patients
- Upholds HIPAA regulations
- Punctual and dependent for assigned/confirmed shifts

Position Requirements

- Graduate of an accredited nursing program
- Current nursing license, in good standing with the State licensing board
- Minimum of one (1) year Labor & Delivery (L/D) experience
- Federal-, State- and GHR-required credentials current and on file
- Cognitive skills as related to the position

Working Conditions

Because patients need round-the-clock care, working hours include days, nights, weekends and holidays. Nurses spend considerable time walking, bending, stretching and standing, so they must follow proper body mechanics to guard against injury. Because of the fast-paced and variable environment of labor & delivery, L/D Nurses must possess good stress coping skills and be able to relate to people of all ages and backgrounds. They must be able to work accurately around frequent interruptions. Nurses may face hazards from exposure to chemicals and infectious diseases.

Physical Demands

- Ability to lift twenty (20) pounds. Moving, lifting or transferring of patients may involve lifting of up to fifty (50) pounds
- Ability to stand and walk for extended periods
- Ability to bend, lean and stoop without hindrance; full range of body motion
- Fine motor skills
- Visual acuity; normal range of hearing

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to stand and talk or hear. The employee is frequently required to walk; use hands to finger, handle, or feel; and reach forward with hands and arms. The employee is occasionally required to sit and stoop, kneel, or crouch. The employee must frequently lift and/or move up to 20 pounds and occasionally lift or move 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and ability to adjust focus.

The overall physical demand rating for a job of the nurse falls within the Medium classification (exerting 20 to 50 pounds of force occasionally, and/or 10 to 25 pounds of force frequently, and/or greater than negligible up to 10 pounds of force constantly to move objects. Physical Demand requirements are in excess of those for Light Work) according to the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.


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You may contact GHR’s Human Resources Department for a comprehensive list of physical demands.