

## PUBLIC HEALTH DISEASE CONTROL SPECIALIST I

This is professional work involving the identification and location of high-priority sexually transmitted disease case suspects, contacts, and associates through field investigation to ensure rapid examination and treatment of those at risk. Employees have multi-county or region-wide responsibility. Employees conduct personal interviews to obtain case-related information; explain the disease process, treatment, prevention, and legal requirements; analyze epidemiologic information to determine need and priority for follow-up activities. Employees provide education, consultation, and technical assistance to health department staff on interview techniques, records, treatment procedures, specimen collection, quality control, culture preparation and interpretation, and assist in performing diagnostic examinations on suspected cases. Employees establish and maintain effective working relationships with the medical community and assist in the presentation of informational and educational programs.

Also identified at this level is the notification, counseling, and referral of persons infected with HIV and their sex or needle-sharing partners. Employees interview clients to discuss HIV positive results and legal requirements for partner notification provide counseling and risk reduction education, refer to medical resources, assess clients' need for longer-term counseling or support services, and provide follow-up. Employees assist in the evaluation of the quality and impact, of partner notification system. Employees report to a regional supervisor.

### I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Employees are responsible for the control of a wide range of high priority sexually transmitted diseases and conduct personal interviews to identify and locate case suspects, their contacts, and associates, obtain epidemiologic information, and motivate them to accept timely examination and treatment. Employees explain legal requirements and disease-related information to clients; provide technical assistance and consultation to health department staff and community medical personnel; perform laboratory tests and examinations; obtain case-related information from private physicians and laboratories; disseminate pertinent educational materials; and provide case follow-up. Employees assigned to the AIDS Program provide similar case finding services to persons infected with HIV and their contacts, make referrals to appropriate medical resources; provide risk reduction education and supportive counseling to clients, families, and contacts, assess clients' need for longer-term counseling/therapy or support services, and provide follow-up.

Intricacy - Clients and contacts from all socioeconomic levels require that employees utilize a variety of techniques to elicit identifying and locating information on case suspects and their contacts while preserving confidentiality. Employees use analysis and judgment in determining investigative and follow-up priority for a variety of high priority sexually transmitted diseases and demonstrate a knowledge of educational and motivational techniques to encourage acceptance of treatment. Employee assigned to the AIDS program accurately assess clients' need for supportive services and for counseling/therapy to assist clients in the emotional reaction to notification of HIV positive results.

Subject Matter Complexity - Work requires a basic understanding of federal, state, and local public health laws and regulations, knowledge of interviewing techniques for use in obtaining locating information on case suspects and contacts; knowledge of motivational techniques to encourage acceptance of treatment; basic knowledge of medical terminology and disease processes of high-priority sexually transmitted diseases; knowledge of supportive counseling techniques.

Guidelines - Employees utilize agency guidelines, federal or state standards and technical /procedural guides which are well delineated and readily available.

## II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - Employees receive case assignments, new program requirements and on-the-job training from supervisors. Structured technical training is provided by the Center for Disease Control and is reinforced by supervisors and higher level employees who may provide assistance in difficult situations.

Nature of Review - Direct client interaction and investigation results are documented in accordance with agency requirements. Work is reviewed for technical accuracy, adequacy, and adherence to guidelines.

Scope of Decisions - Conclusions drawn and actions taken regarding investigative priority and extent of follow-through in accordance with established procedures affect the health of clients and their contacts. Employees may provide direction or instruction to clinic staff or other medical care providers.

Consequence of Decisions - Service/treatment decisions affect the physical, social, and emotional health of client and contacts.

## III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - Contacts are with local health department personnel affiliate with the program, clients and private citizens from all socioeconomic levels, and other professional and technical health workers.

Nature and Purpose - Employees work with clients and their contacts, private physicians, laboratory personnel, and the general public to obtain epidemiologic information, refer for medical examination and treatment, provide risk reduction education and provide program assistance and consultation.

## IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - Considerable time is spent traveling to health departments, community health facilities and schools, and involves visits in clients homes and other community locations.

Hazards - Employees may experience exposure to hazards in their fieldwork: driving, inner-city settings, clinic settings, home environments, and inclement weather.

## V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Basic knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases or AIDS, their symptoms, complications, and epidemiology; working knowledge of principles and practices of specific investigative methods, interviewing and supportive counseling techniques; ability to establish rapport and effective communications with clients, family members, and others involved; ability to interpret and apply federal, state, and local public health laws, rules, and regulations which are applicable to sexually transmitted diseases; ability to express ideas clearly and concisely in oral or written form; ability to plan and execute work.

Minimum Training and Experience Requirements - Graduation from a four-year college or university and one year experience as a Public Health Disease Control Specialist Trainee; or graduation from a four-year college or university and two years experience in public health investigation and/or disease control activities; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

Training and Experience Requirements for Trainee Appointment - Graduation from a four-year college or university; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.