

COMMUNITY DISEASE CONTROL SPECIALIST I

This is beginning level professional work in county health departments involving the detection, treatment, and contact investigation of patients suspected to be infected with sexually transmitted diseases (STD). Employees are directly concerned with a limited number of sexually transmitted diseases but also provide assistance to regional staff in the tracing of high-priority sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. Employees provide coverage in STD clinics, interview patients to obtain medical history, provide education on the disease process, prevention, complications, transmission of the disease, and treatment. Employees obtain laboratory specimens when indicated, interpret results, arrange treatment, and provide follow-up of positive laboratory-confirmed cases of sexually transmitted diseases to determine efficiency of treatment. Employees also conduct field investigations to locate sexual contacts of infected patients. Employees report to a higher level professional.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Employees are involved with the control of a limited number of specific 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; explain legal requirements and disease-related information to clients; provide technical assistance and consultation to health department staff and community medical personnel; perform basic laboratory tests and examinations; obtain case-related information from private physicians and laboratories; disseminate pertinent educational materials; and provide case 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 and demonstrate a knowledge of educational and motivational techniques to encourage acceptance of treatment.

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 and sharing of contact information, basic knowledge of medical terminology and disease processes of a limited number of 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 and new program requirements from supervisors. Structured technical training is provided on entry by the Center for Disease Control and is reinforced by regional staff who may provide assistance in difficult situations.

Nature of Review - Direct client interaction and investigation results are documented in accordance with agency and program 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 affiliated 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 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 - Ability to learn the cause and effect of sexually transmitted diseases, their symptoms, complications, and epidemiology; ability to learn 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 preferably with a degree in human services or science; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.