

Job Description

Job Title	Medical Social Worker
Department	Nursing Administration
Reports to	VP of Patient Care/CNO
Date	February 2013

Overall Purpose of Job

Medical social workers assess the psychosocial functioning of patients and families and intervene as necessary. Interventions may include connecting patients and families to necessary resources and supports in the community, providing supportive or grief counselling.

Medical social workers typically work on an interdisciplinary team with professionals of other disciplines and will provide exceptional patient care in an environment where quality, respect, caring and compassion are at the centre of all we do.

Key Responsibilities and Deliverables

- To provide counselling, information and support as appropriate to hospital patients and their families within the specific area of work allocated to him/her.
- To carry out psychosocial assessments where social issues are a factor in illness management and advise the multidisciplinary team on the outcome.
- To formulate discharge care plans for patients together with the multidisciplinary team.
- To assess patients' support system in order to ensure that, upon discharge, patients have an appropriate level of support for their needs in their families and community.
- To ensure the necessary liaison and cooperation with medical, nursing and other disciplines in the hospital and in consultation with them to arrange for case conferences in appropriate cases.
- To cooperate with community and other health board services, statutory bodies and appropriate voluntary bodies, agencies and individuals, so that current and aftercare of patients is best catered for.
- To keep accurate records of social work intervention.
- Any other duties as may be assigned from time to time by Hospital Management.

Person Specification

Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Qualification in Social Work (NQSW) or equivalent.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 years experience or over since qualifying. Hospital experience desirable.
Job Specific Competencies and Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisational Knowledge: Knowledge of current health service policies and legislation. Familiarity with other legislation, i.e. Freedom of information. Familiarity with community care agencies both voluntary and non voluntary. Awareness of benefits entitlements and relevant social services available. Professional Knowledge: Social work principals and practice (theories and values). Core Competencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpersonal skills Communication skills Management skills Motivational skills Assertiveness skills Assessment skills Negotiation skills Computer Literate
Personal Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All posts in UPMC Beacon Hospital require a high level of flexibility to ensure the delivery of an effective and efficient service. Therefore, the post holder will be required to demonstrate flexibility as and when required by their manager or hospital management.

This job description is intended to be an outline of the areas of responsibility and deliverables at the time of its writing. As the Hospital and the post holder develop, this job description may be subject to review in light of the changing needs of the Hospital.

Job Description received by employee: _____
Signature
Date