

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Issued

Revision

Position Title

ASSOCIATE STAFF SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

Title code

Level I - 966010

Level II - 966020

Purpose of position:

Performs complex activity in the performance, administration, and supervision of diagnostic, habilitative, and rehabilitative services to patients with speech and language impairments, in order to assist them towards the attainment of greater effectiveness in the process of communication by addressing communicative disorders indicated by impaired voice, language, or speech, and ameliorating the emotional and psychological adjustment to such disorders; performs related work.

There are two assignment levels to differentiate the complexity, responsibility, and scope of assignment in clinical practice and/or the levels of supervision.

Major duties:

Level I

Under general supervision, with wide latitude for the exercise of independent judgement, performs the following tasks:

1. Identifies patients with speech, language, and related disorders, upon medical referral, and determines etiology, history and severity of specific disorders through interviewing and testing techniques.
2. Assesses, evaluates, analyzes and treats communicative and other problems resulting from speech, language, and related disorders and the diseases or traumas which caused them.
3. Investigates and studies the underlying causes, precipitating factors, symptomatic behavior and emotional effects as well as the functional impact of speech and language disorders upon the patient.
4. Plans programs designed to restore or improve the communicative ability of patients with physiogenic, neurogenic, or psychogenic speech and language disorders in order to produce, improve or restore appropriate communication skills.
5. Treats speech, language, and related disorders such as aphasia, dysarthria, phonological defect, language delay, stuttering and voice disorders including laryngectomy, those disorders affecting the geriatric population, and those secondary to traumatic injury.
6. Consults with other health care professionals when necessary to determine the need for referrals to specialists in medicine, dentistry, education, psychology, social work or other related areas.
7. Attends evaluation conferences and rounds to discern the progress and prognosis of patients under treatment.

Major duties (continued):

8. Schedules examinations and treatment, prepares case histories and summaries, and reports on the therapeutic progress and goals of patients under treatment.
9. Counsels patients and/or families in their adjustment to speech, language, and/or related impairments.
10. Counsels preoperative or postoperative patients to prepare them for appropriate post-operative treatment.
11. Keeps abreast of the latest developments in the field in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with speech disorders.
12. Checks equipment periodically to ensure proper functioning and calibration.
13. Performs related duties.

Level II

Under general supervision, with wide latitude for independent judgement, an employee at this higher level of expertise performs some of the major duties of Level I and, in addition, may perform the following tasks:

1. Evaluates and treats patients with more complex speech, language, and related disorders. Sets treatment, goals, observes and documents progress, and makes adjustments to therapy programs of patients in personal case load.
2. May coordinate total patient communication environment by working with school professionals, health care professionals, families, and support groups. Recommends appropriate specialized educational institutions and special programs. May identify financial care and reimbursement eligibility, and expedites corresponding applications.
3. Acts as a role model and mentor to less experienced speech and audiology staff. Advises less experienced staff in clinical assessment and treatment of patients. Performs clinical supervision of practicum students and speech clinicians. Assists in reviewing the treatment plans of less experienced staff.
4. Instructs health care personnel in the principles and basis of speech pathology, including clinical techniques and patient care management.
5. May coordinate, and contributes to, the development of clinical practice programs for students in speech pathology; and may participate in the instruction and supervision of students.

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Major duties (continued):

6. May coordinate the scheduling of inservice programs or other specialized activities.

7. Acts as a resource to other departments upon request. Assists in writing departmental brochures and other descriptive program material.

8. Attends workshops, conferences, classes, and demonstrations of new developments in the speech and hearing field. Recommends improvements in departmental procedures, training, and organization to intergrate new techniques into daily practice.

9. Assists in the implementation of changes in departmental procedure.

10. Performs related duties.

Knowledge and skills required:

Level I

1. A Master's Degree in Speech Pathology from an accredited college or university including 300 hours of supervised clinical experience in speech pathology, and
2. A New York State license in Speech Pathology, and
3. One year of full time paid professional experience within the last five years beyond the licensure, in the practice of speech pathology in a hospital, health care, rehabilitation or related facility.

Level II

1. A Master's Degree in Speech Pathology from an accredited college or university including 300 hours of supervised clinical experience in speech pathology, and
2. A New York State license in Speech Pathology, and
3. Holds the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech Pathology, and
4. Two years of full time paid professional experience within the last five years beyond the licensure, in the practice of Speech Pathology in a hospital, health care, rehabilitation or related facility.

Direct line of promotion:

From: Speech Clinician

To: Supervising Speech Pathologist

