

**Heidi R. Madsen, RN, BSBA**

**Parish Nurse**

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The Parish Nurse works within the Church as a Health Counselor, Health Educator, Referral Source and Group Facilitator. The role of Parish nurse is differentiated from other community nursing roles in that they are NOT involved in “ direct hands-on care”. Provides professional nursing care utilizing disease management guidelines as appropriate.

Performs initial and ongoing nursing assessments. Establishes nursing care plans in collaboration with the patient, family, and the health care team. Works as part of the interdisciplinary care team to coordinate on-going care. Focuses on programs to maximize wellness, prevent illness, disability, and disease. Performs triaging with medical and community resources. Makes home visits, hospital visits, hospice visits, office visits, and nursing home visits.

Seeks to promote an understanding of the relationship between lifestyle, attitudes, faith and well-being. The Parish Nurse respects the person’s life experience and their ways of being with pain and suffering. The nurse participates in the now with the parishioner as the person changes and grows depending on how the person chooses to live health. The nurse supports them on their journey.

Provides health education to patients and families. Evaluates learning needs and abilities of patients and families and adapts education to meet those needs. Documents education and participates in the development of that plan.

Plans delivery of care in collaboration with other disciplines to promote wellness and a safe therapeutic environment. Assesses home support network of patient. Initiates referrals to other services as appropriate.

Maintains core competence in nursing–completion of CEU requirements as outlined by State Board of Nursing to maintain current licensure.

Provides care for patients of all ages: pediatric, adolescent, adult, elderly, mentally and physically challenged. Demonstrates knowledge of multiple disease processes and integrates this knowledge into care of the specific patient population. Demonstrates leadership skills in the coordination and provision of health care.

Communicates patient concerns to physicians and/or other care givers. Utilizes health care resources appropriately. Consistently establishes priorities and implements them. Organizes work to meet objectives and goals of the parish nurse program.

Interacts with patients, visitors, and all personnel in a courteous and helpful manner. Maintains confidentiality of information regarding patients, families, and co-workers. Demonstrates respect for individual cultural and social differences. Participates in conflict resolution and problem solving process.

Demonstrates problem solving skills through communication, coordination and delegation to assure cost-effective quality care in compliance with the Foundation and departmental policies and procedures. Demonstrates ability to utilize computerized informational systems in the care of patients.

Recruits and coordinates volunteers and support groups within the congregation. Plans activities that reflect identifies emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the parish. Meets with the Pastor, and cabinet to identify needs and plan accordingly. Attends meetings as requested.

Communicates effectively with pastor and associates. Notifies Pastor of situations that he should be aware of. Seeks guidance from Pastor regarding difficult situations.

Keeps accurate personal records and statistical documentation.

Effectiveness and efficiency includes overall volume and quality of work required for successful job performance.

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