REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSE

JOB SUMMARY
Under the direction of the Program Coordinator or delegate, provides nursing care for children and youth with behavioural, emotional and psychiatric disturbances. Within the context of a multi-disciplinary team and in a residential setting, provides care and treatment to children and youth, including assessment, intervention, and evaluation. (Additional details below)

TRAINING / EXPERIENCE NEEDED
- Graduation from a recognized nursing program.
- Current, practising registration with the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia or the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia.
- Minimum two years’ recent related experience, which includes one year paediatric and one year psychiatric experience.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES NEEDED
- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing.
- Ability to work independently, set priorities and organize workload accordingly.
- Ability to deal effectively with others and work as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- Ability to manage aggressive behaviour through progressive intervention techniques.
- Physical ability to perform the duties of the position.
- Ability to operate related equipment.

POST-SECONDARY INFORMATION
- For a complete list of Registered Psychiatric Nursing Programs in Canada visit: http://www.crpnbca/bc_education.html

Canadian Registered Psychiatric Nurses are educated in the four western provinces. They receive their basic education in psychiatric nursing at the diploma or baccalaureate level – with special educational focus being placed on psychiatric and mental health issues and care delivery.

For many years, students have been able to acquire a Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing from Brandon University in Manitoba. Post-diploma programs for RPNs have also long been available in both British Columbia (Advanced Diploma & Bachelor of Health Sciences – Psychiatric Nursing) and Manitoba (Bachelor of Science in Mental Health).

The RPNC supports the movement towards Baccalaureate as entry to practice for the profession of psychiatric nursing in the future. In the ongoing development of the profession of psychiatric nursing, the movement towards degree preparation ensures that RPNs are well positioned to respond to the changing needs and demands of the work environment, and are fully prepared for expanded roles in the delivery of health services.

PROGRAM LENGTH
- 4 years

QUICK FACTS
The Wage
- 2008 - 2009 $27.85-36.67 per hour
- 2009 - 2010 $29.02-38.10 per hour
RELATED LINKS

- College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia
- BC Loan Forgiveness Program
- VIHA resource – Registered Nurses and Psychiatric Nurses job postings
- VIHA resource – New Graduate Transition Program
- VIHA resource – BC Nurses Union Salary Information
- VIHA resource – Post Graduate Nursing Education

JOB TASKS - A SAMPLE

- Conducts physical assessments of children and youth including:
  - Identifying those children requiring prompt medical intervention;
  - Establishing, implementing and demonstrating treatment strategies that deal with the clinical manifestations of physical illnesses; and
  - Recognizing, recording and reporting signs and symptoms of physical illness to the Coordinator.
- Provides nursing care to children and manages medications by:
  - Obtaining, processing and implementing doctor’s orders as required;
  - Preparing, administering and charting medications;
  - Assessing and recording antecedent events and responsiveness to prescribed medications; anticipates side effects of medications; and
  - Securing and handling medications; recognizing and managing aggressive behaviour using progressive intervention techniques.
- Conducts psychosocial assessments by:
  - Recognizing normal physical development and behavioural characteristics of children and youth and assessing their functioning;
  - Recognizing, recording and reporting signs of behavioural or psychiatric disturbance to the Most Responsible Professional (MRP); and
  - Participating as a member of a multi-disciplinary team in establishing a plan of care for children and youth and their families.
- Collaborates with members of a multi-disciplinary team to establish, promote and evaluate the standards of care. Participates in assessing program quality and provides input to modification of milieu as required.
- Conducts interviews with children, youth, families and community to obtain data, define problems, establish goals and participate in treatment.
- Participates as a member of a multi-disciplinary team in continuous quality improvement initiatives by completing nursing audits; participating in research projects; providing input into the development and or revision of policies and procedures; providing input to and participating in quality improvement plans/activities.
- Performs other related duties as required.