I. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Position Number: 122216
Title: ELC Antibiotic Resistant Gonorrhea Outreach Field Nurse
Department: Health
Division: Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing
Branch: Harm Reduction Services
Section: Clinic and Field Services
Geographic Location: Manoa to Kahala

II. INTRODUCTION

The Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing Division (CDPHND) works to reduce morbidity and mortality from communicable diseases in Hawaii, to improve the health of individuals and communities, and to support the medical marijuana registry program. The Clinic and Field Services section has specific responsibilities that include provision of clinical services for sexually transmitted disease (STD) testing and treatment, investigative, and control services for state-reportable STDs, and surveillance services for state-reportable STDs other than the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

The Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC) Project seeks to improve the public health system in Hawaii, including its program design and infrastructure, for effective detection and prevention of emerging infectious diseases. The ELC Project is a critical component of addressing emerging infectious disease threats at the state and local level and works to strengthen local epidemiological and laboratory capacity to identify and respond to such threats, including antibiotic-resistant (AR) gonorrhea (GC) infections.

The primary purpose of this position is to improve surveillance, investigation, and control of AR GC infections in persons living on or visiting the island of Oahu (City and County of Honolulu) by working with community-based health care providers. This position conducts public health detailing and other in-service trainings for community-based practices to improve identification of gonorrhea (GC) infections outside of traditional sexual and reproductive health foci. It is a key point-of-contact for AR GC education with the jurisdiction’s health care community, supports health care providers needing outreach assistance in circumstances of suspected treatment failure, and supports Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) when field-based clinical support is needed.

III. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Public Health Detailing 35%

1. Recruits community-based health care providers to improve GC detection and control:
   a. Places identification of GC infections in contexts of STD screenings, sexual and reproductive wellness, and general health care.
   b. Discusses each practice’s approach to STD testing and indicates
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State STD prevention program, and others’ recommendations as points of reference for standard care.

c. Outlines issues of concern regarding GC incidence and sequelae, the history of GC treatment resistance, and the limited treatment recommendations at present.

d. Seeks communication about and understanding of each practice’s barriers to standard STD care and GC culture collection.

e. Collaborates with each practice to address screening and culture collection barriers.

2. Appraises the strengths and weaknesses of culture specimen collection methodologies, especially as related to community-based gonorrhea detection, control, and surveillance activities. Evaluates commercially available collection materials for appropriateness.

3. Assesses, develops, and revises procedures and materials to support gonorrhea culture specimen collection in community-based primary care settings, leading to cultivation, timely susceptibility testing, and timely results communication and reporting.

4. Participates in in-service trainings for community-based health care providers that promote sexual history taking and documentation, recommending STD screening and treatment practices, STD case reporting, and appropriate use of and referral to public health STD services.

5. Establishes contacts and maintains a network of physicians, infection control practitioners, and others to facilitate the reporting of gonorrhea in the community.

B. Public Health Education 20%

1. Compiles, maintains, evaluates, and disseminates information on gonorrhea and other sexually-transmitted infections, especially in support of public health detailing work.

2. Responds to inquiries from health care providers and health care facilities about GC and AR GC epidemiology. Explains policies and regulations concerning control and prevention of gonorrhea to physicians, nurses, other health-related agencies, and the public.

3. Makes technical and informative presentations to professional and lay groups in the community.

4. Collaborates with other Branch staff to writes articles for scientific journals, newsletters, and other lay publications.
C. STD Clinic-Assigned Case Investigations 15%

1. Participates equally in the Intervention Services rotation of staff for DIS on-call duties at the jurisdiction’s categorical, public health, STD clinic, but in a modified role.

2. Accepts routine DIS assignments of new HIV, syphilis, and GC cases.

3. Serves as an ancillary clinician on these days by seeing patients for clinician-collection of STD testing specimens, receiving those same patients in DIS-referral.

4. Revises the clinical service approaches reviewed in Public Health Detailing by reviewing the experiences in STD Clinic DIS-related services for approaches and methods to transfer to community-based primary care partners needing assistance with higher-risk clients.

D. STD Clinic Outreach, Testing, and Linkage (OTL) Services 15%

1. Participates equally in the Intervention Services rotation of staff for OTL services at the jurisdiction's categorical, public health, STD clinic.

2. Reviews experiences in STD Clinic OTL services for approaches and methods to transfer to community-based primary care partners needing assistance with clients reporting lower STD risks, but with potential coincident injection drug use (IDU) or viral hepatitis risk factors, in revising the clinical service approaches reviewed in Public Health Detailing.

E. Field Services 10%

1. Supports health care providers needing outreach assistance in circumstances of suspected treatment failure.

2. Provides field-based clinical support AR GC DIS colleagues, as needed (e.g., injectable treatments under program Standing Orders).

F. Performs Other Related Duties as Assigned 5%

Total 100%

IV. CONTROLS EXERCISED OVER THE WORK

A. Supervisor

Position No.: 122218  Title: ELC Antibiotic Resistant Gonorrhea Coordinator
B. Nature of Supervisory Control Exercised Over the Work

1. Instructions Provided

Clinical instruction provided by STD Clinic staff under Clinic procedures and Standing Orders. Other guidance and instructions are limited to administrative supervisory contact. The position functions with a fair degree of independence to plan, prioritize, coordinate, and produce needed technical results. Investigations are coordinated with appropriate affected staff and agencies and the supervisor is kept abreast of the nature and progress of investigations.

Technical Guidance for Clinical Services:
- Provided by MDs and RNs of the Branch’s STD Clinic.
- Standing Orders of STD Clinic under authority of Chief, Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing Division.

Public health detailing activities are planned and conducted under the guidance of the AR GC Coordinator.

2. Assistance Provided

Assistance is provided by the direct supervisor and other colleagues as appropriate. The employee is expected to inform and/or update the supervisor of ongoing investigations and of any work occurrences that are unusual or of potentially noteworthy nature.

3. Review of Work

Routine investigational work assignments are reviewed by the supervisor periodically for progress, accuracy and completeness, as in accord with program operating standards. The supervisor reviews other assignments through regular and ad hoc meetings and program updates.

C. Nature of Available Guidelines Controlling the Work

1. Policy and Procedural Guides Available

Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 321 and 325; Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapters 156 and 157; State and Departmental Administrative Policies; “Control of Communicable Diseases in Man” a publication of the American Public Health Association; "Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases" a publication of the American Academy of Pediatrics; CDC: “STD Treatment Guidelines,” “Recommendations for the Laboratory-Based Detection of Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhoeae,” general Gonorrhea information and updates, and “Program Operations Guidelines for STD Prevention”; “The Practitioner’s Handbook for the
2. Use of Guidelines

Guidelines cover the more common, but not all, situations. The employee is expected to know and apply principles of disease control and prevention, and to make decisions using available information resources and supervisory guidance.

V. REQUIRED LICENSES, CERTIFICATES, ETC.

- A valid license to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Hawaii is required.
- Possession of a valid driver’s license is preferred.

VI. RECOMMENDED QUALIFICATIONS

A. Knowledge

- Basic public health concepts, including an understanding of public health philosophy, goals and practices, and communicable disease program objectives, goals, and priorities.
- Etiology, treatment, control, and prevention for gonorrhea and other sexually-transmitted infection; medical and epidemiologic aspects of diseases; and characteristics of populations. Thorough knowledge of the basic principles and methods for surveillance and investigation.
- Testing methodology, techniques and precautions in the collection, preparation, recording and transporting of various specimens.
- Expertise in methods of analyzing data.
- Knowledge of resources available in the diagnosis and treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases.

B. Skills/Abilities

- Skill in making sound observations; ascertaining and recording facts; and identifying actual and potential communicable health conditions.
- Competency in arriving at accurate conclusions and taking appropriate action. Ability to analyze, interpret and apply pertinent rules, regulations, and policies to specific circumstances.
- Skill in adjusting to sudden changes in priorities and quantity of workload. Resourceful, responsible, and able to work irregular and/or long hours with little or no advance notice and field service on very short notice.
- Efficiency in data management and capacity to compile, analyze, evaluate, and interpret data including use of statistical software. Ability to prepare comprehensive statistical and narrative reports, including all accompanying graphics, charts and tables.
• Skill in working and communicating with persons from diverse socioeconomic groups. Capable of maintaining confidentiality, self-control and composure under adverse circumstances. Skill in educating, persuading, instructing, and advising health care providers and the public in sexually-transmitted disease control measures.
• Ability to make effective technical and informative presentations to professional and lay audiences.

C. Education

Graduation from an accredited school of nursing.

D. Experience

No specialized experience required. Professional work experience as a registered nurse is preferred.

VII. TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINES

Proficient in computer and associated software such as Microsoft Office (Word and Excel), calculator, copying, and facsimile machines. Thermometers, scales, vaccination, phlebotomy, and biohazard protection equipment.

VIII. WORKING CONDITIONS

See attached Supplement to Position Description.