SENIOR PATIENT ACTIVITIES LEADER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is activities work involving oversight and participation in the conduct of a variety of social, recreational and other purposeful activities (e.g. arts and crafts, story telling, wheelchair bowling, hobbies, etc.). This work is distinguished from that of a Patient Activities Leader by the difficulty of assignments. The work is performed under the general supervision of a Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor and in accordance with established policies and procedures, and work guidance (e.g. lead work) may be provided to others. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:
Participates in and provides guidance for recreational activities for residents of the nursing home, including large and small groups, individual, and community based programs;
Keeps track of resident participation in therapeutic activities and makes sure that information is accurately entered in patients charts in accordance with standards;
Reviews participation and suggests modifications in activities where appropriate;
Explains practical procedures, policies and programs to Activities Aides, as needed;
Monitors the community trip program (e.g. local parks, malls, etc.) for the purpose of insuring the safety of residents and staff as well as scheduling appropriate residents to participate in the program;
Coordinates with other units of the Department of Hospitals for support in conducting therapeutic recreational activities (e.g. Dietary, Transportation, etc.);
Contacts community groups, community agencies and performers to schedule on and off-site events;
Maintains the equipment of the department including routine inspections of audio-visual equipment, vehicles, and program materials to insure safety and usage;
Attends department meetings and/or represents the department in Supervisor’s absence;
May develop recreational activity calendar and develop activities under the supervision of a Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:
Good knowledge of recreational activities and equipment, especially related to the elderly; sensitivity to the needs of geriatric patients; ability to work with the aged and infirm; ability to stimulate and maintain patients’ participation in various recreational activities; ability to establish and maintain cooperative relations with others; ability to maintain checklists and other basic records.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma and three (3) years of paid work experience in leisure time activities in an institutional setting with chronically ill, aged or disabled patients.

NOTE: Additional years of the required experience may be substituted for education on a year-for-year basis.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of a valid New York State driver’s license.

PROMOTION: Two (2) years of permanent status as a Patient Activities Leader.