

ORTHOPTIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision of the Director of Ophthalmology, an incumbent of this position performs professional and technical services in support of an Ophthalmologist related to the examination and treatment of focusing defects affecting binocular vision. This involves measuring and evaluating visual acuity, focusing ability and eye-motor movement of the eyes in order to assist the Ophthalmologist in the diagnosis and treatment of defects. Supervision may be exercised over lower level support staff. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Conducts orthoptic evaluations of patients to detect motor abnormalities by accurately measuring the field of vision in order to determine visual acuity, focusing ability and eye-motor movements of the eyes, both separately and jointly;

Diagnoses various ocular motility problems, to determine origin as neurological or functional; recommends treatment alternatives (surgical or therapeutic); and the type and duration of therapy;

Conducts therapy for identified focusing defects in order to develop visual skills, near-visual discrimination, and depth perception, using developmental glasses and prisms;

Provides instruction to patients and their families in the proper utilization of corrective methods at home, and conducts follow up evaluations to monitor progress or changes;

Prepares reports for referring physicians on the outcome of orthoptic evaluations and therapeutic activities;

Maintains detailed case history files of patients served, and documents their patient charts with test results and therapeutic activities;

Organizes the scheduling of patient visits for evaluations and treatments and for surgical procedures in order to best utilize available professional resources;

Provides information and referral services to inform schools, agencies, physicians and private patients on services available in the Division of Ophthalmology;

Secures necessary information and documentation from patients for billing and registration purposes, and advises them of fee schedule;

Conducts specialized screening tests and programs servicing target or at risk population groups, particularly children;

Collects clinical data on patients and prepares reports in collaboration with the Ophthalmologists and Resident Physician in conducting research activities;

Provides instruction to house staff assigned to the Division of Ophthalmology in the field of orthoptics;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Cont'd.)

Keeps abreast of the field of orthoptics by means of continuing education and by attending conferences and lectures.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES & ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of the principles and modern practices in the field of orthoptics with demonstrated skills in microbiology, advanced tonometry, visual field analysis, advanced color vision testing, clinical optics, ocular motility and photography; ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; ability to understand and communicate complex technical detail; ability to establish effective working relations with physicians and other professional medical staff; ability to instruct and gain the cooperation of patients; sound professional judgment; dependability; manual dexterity; accuracy; physical condition commensurate with the requirements of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Satisfactory completion of a training course in orthoptics approved by the American Orthoptic Council and two years of full-time experience in orthoptics under the supervision of an ophthalmologist.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Possession of valid certification as an Orthoptist issued by the American Orthoptic Council.