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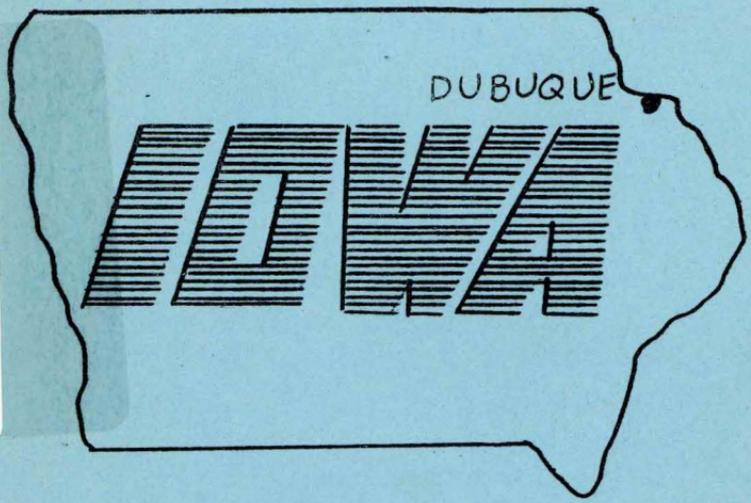
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JOB INFORMATION

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NURSE AIDE

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I O W A

O C C U P A T I O N A L G U I D E S

April 1958

N U R S E A I D E

IOWA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
COMMISSION

K. A. Madigan, Chairman
Henry E. Carter, Vice-Chairman
Claude Stanley, Commissioner

P R E F A C E

The Iowa Occupational Guides are written to assist the Iowa Employment Service personnel in their counseling and placement activities, the public and parochial schools in their guidance program and curriculum planning, and as an aid to employers in recruiting of their personnel.

This booklet is designed to give job information on Nurse Aides in Dubuque, a general description of the work performed, the working conditions, training requirements, rate of pay and hours of work. The Iowa State Employment Service has additional information on the job and the opportunities for employment in the Dubuque area.

The State of Iowa has 35 local offices from which job information may be obtained. A list of these offices is found in the back of this booklet.

THE JOB IN DUBUQUE

The nurse aide will continue to be an important job in hospitals, sanitariums and nursing homes in Dubuque. The high rate of turnover will contribute to the number of openings for this occupation. In July, 1957, there were 161 nurse aides employed in Dubuque. The work is of a routine nature that requires no special training. The majority of these workers are hired and trained on the job with instruction and supervision given by the professional nursing staff. The demand for these workers will increase during the rest of the 1950's and the 1960's not only in Dubuque but the entire country.

WORK PERFORMED

The nurse aide cares for hospitalized patients, performing routine tasks under the supervision of a professional nurse. Assists newly-admitted patients in undressing and dressing in

hospital garb and stores the patient's clothing, returning it to her on discharge. Bathes bed patient, or assists her in bathing herself, and gives alcohol rubs. Attends to the patient's personal needs such as combing and shampooing hair. Feeds the patients who are unable to feed themselves, in cases as ordered, keeping a record of patient's food intake and output. Answers call bells or signal lights; passes and empties bed-pans and collects specimens; and may assist patient in walking or may transport the patient to various parts of the hospital in wheel chair. The nurse aide also makes beds, changes covers on stretchers, examining tables, and cleans and sterilizes instruments and equipment.

WORKING CONDITIONS

The nurse-aide works inside well-lighted and ventilated rooms. She is constantly stand-

ing and walking during work periods and does a great amount of turning, stooping, bending, stretching and lifting. There is a possibility of strain from lifting, cuts from sharp instruments, burns from sterilizing equipment, and infections from handling soiled linens. However, caution will minimize these hazards. The nurse aide is, of course, exposed to communicable diseases and disagreeable odors.

No physical examination is required of persons hired as nurse aide. However, general good health, neat appearance and cleanliness are necessary.

TRAINING REQUIRED

Although high school is desirable, 8th grade education is acceptable. The nurse aide is given on-the-job training under close supervision. While the age of the nurse aide varies,

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the minimum age is generally eighteen with the greatest number in the teens and early twenties.

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There is no formal line of promotion from nurse aide. A nurse aide can do private home practical nursing, oftentimes at a rate of pay higher than that paid for the services of a nurse aide. However, she cannot hire out as a state-licensed practical nurse. Many of the tasks of the practical nurse are similar to those of the nurse aide, particularly when employed in a private home.

The training received as a nurse aide is valuable to young women in that they learn much about future family care.

It is possible for those entering the field of registered nursing to determine through a short period of employment as nurse aide whether or not they will like and be suited for nursing.

This is done in Dubuque at a hospital offering nurses training. Those entering registered nurse training in the fall of the year can work through the preceding summer months as nurse aides.

EARNINGS AND HOURS OF WORK

Rate of pay is generally \$5 a day or \$130 a month, and in general, automatic increases are given to a top of approximately \$145 within one and one-half years. From then on, increases are based on merit.

The hours of work in most hospitals are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., and 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. The night shift hours are often agreeable to married women with families who are free to work during the evening hours.

APTITUDES AND INTERESTS

A nurse aide must be willing to perform a variety of simple, repetitive tasks, some in-

volving unpleasant conditions, must be rapid and accurate in making ready for use instruments and supplies, and be willing to work under the close supervision of others. Patience and tact are necessary.

HIRING CHANNELS

Local hospitals and nursing homes cooperate with the Iowa State Employment Service by placing orders for workers and a specific test for nurse aide indicating aptitude for this employment is available there. Therefore, it is well in looking for a job to register with the Iowa State Employment Service. The "Help Wanted" section of the local newspaper is a source that may prove valuable in obtaining job leads. A final suggestion is to make direct application to hospitals, sanitariums and nursing homes in the area. The following establishments employ sig-

nificant numbers of nurse aides in the Dubuque area.

Finley Hospital	2-1881
Frommelt Schaefer's Convalescent Home	2-2688
Medical Associates	3-3571
Our Lady of Lourdes Convalescent Home, Inc.	3-9178
Price Rest Home	3-1429
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital	2-7241
St. Joseph Sanitarium	3-8291
Sisters of Charity, B.V.M.	3-9141
Xavier Hospital	2-3681

LOCAL OFFICE DIRECTORY

OFFICE

STREET ADDRESS

Algona	118 N. Thorington - P.O. 337
Ames	408 $\frac{1}{2}$ Kellogg
Atlantic	74 Campbell Bldg., W. 5th St.
Boone	815 Keeler Street
Burlington	807-809 Jefferson
Carroll	517 N. Main Street
Cedar Rapids	308 Third Street, S.E.
Centerville	119 E. Van Buren
Charles City	608 Riverside Drive
Clinton	136 - 4th Avenue S.
Council Bluffs	28 Pearl Street
Creston	110 W. Montgomery - P.O. 456
Davenport	415 Perry St.
Decorah	300 W. Water
Des Moines	112-116 Eleventh St., 2nd Floor
Dubuque	375 Main - P.O. Box 757
Fairfield	104 W. Burlington Street
Fort Dodge	605 Central Avenue
Fort Madison	937 Avenue H
Iowa City	302 South Gilbert
Keokuk	1028 Main St. - P.O. Box 424
Marshalltown	107 South Third Avenue
Mason City	107-109 S. Delaware
Muscatine	124 E. Third Street
Newton	109 W. 2nd Street, S.
Oelwein	City Hall
Oskaloosa	223 First Avenue E
Ottumwa	208 South Green Street
Perry	1218 Willis Avenue
Shenandoah	417 W. Sheridan
Sioux City	341 Commerce Building
Spencer	18 West 5th Street
Storm Lake	804 Lake Avenue
Waterloo	308 East 5th
Webster City	707 Seneca Street

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