

## **Nurse Investigator**

Classification Number      6075

### **Series Concept**

The Nurse Investigator supports the goals of public health and safety by conducting investigations of alleged law and rule violations or of unsafe nursing practice by all levels of licensed/certified nursing professionals for the state of Oregon. Nurse investigators use professional knowledge of nursing standards of care for all types of clinical settings and applies this knowledge throughout investigation processes to determine violations and risks to public safety. Upon receipt of a complaint, they identify licensees and certificate holders who pose significant risks to the public and work with appropriate Board staff to take the necessary actions to protect the public.

The Nurse Investigator primarily conducts investigations on complaints relating to nursing practice by applying the professional role of the nurse and evaluating patient care against standards of nursing care within specific healthcare delivery systems. They explain the investigation process, licensee rights and Board processes, rules and regulations. Using case management skills, nurse investigators prioritize complaints and determine the course of each investigation. They gather information from personal interviews, medical records, employment records, civil/criminal records, court records and other pertinent documentation that the nurse investigator determines pertinent. The nurse investigator interprets the Nurse Practice Act and applies the provisions throughout the course of investigations. Nurse investigators write investigative reports, prepare evidence and present cases to the Board with recommendations for Board consideration on disciplinary actions.

Nurse investigators prepare and execute subpoenas, consent orders and other legally-binding documents, in accordance with agency process and advice from the agency's assigned assistant attorney general to minimize litigation risks. They assist attorney general representatives in preparing cases for hearing and testify as a technical expert witness for the Agency.

This classification is responsible for informing licensees and employers about the nurse practice act as it applies to an investigation or public safety issues related to nursing practice. They provide guidance to licensees and certificate holders to improve their practice and make recommendations for steps to ensure safe practice of individuals they are investigating.

Nurse Investigators evaluate and monitor licensee compliance with Board disciplinary orders, conduct background investigations, provide input for rule changes to the Nurse Practice Act, provide professional consultation to non-nurse investigators and other agency staff. They maintain professional relationships with other state agencies and the agency's nurse consultants who are subject experts in nursing education, advanced practice and nursing practice. They work cooperatively with law enforcement agencies and district attorneys who handle criminal prosecution cases involving nursing licensees/certificate holders. Work is done with minimal

supervision with expectations and accountability for professional judgment in the execution of assigned duties.

### **Distinguishing Features**

This is a single classification and not part of a series.

### **Minimum Qualifications & Skills**

Education: Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Experience: Five years experience as a Registered Nurse

Licensure: Current Oregon RN license.

Knowledge/Skills:

- Demonstrated positive interpersonal and communication skills with colleagues, patients, families, providers, physicians, and the public.
- Skill in conflict resolution, case management, interviewing and conducting investigations or inspections relating to healthcare practices, gathering documentation and preparing reports, negotiating, and analyzing conflicting reports, issues or testimony.
- Understanding of the nursing process, best practices, technical knowledge, and skills used in the nursing profession.
- Ability to independently structure work schedule, prioritize caseload with minimal supervision.
- Ability to use specialized agency computer programs to document and manage investigations, produce professional documents and reports, and perform research that is pertinent to investigations.