

# Health Care: A Career For Life

## REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSE

### JOB DESCRIPTION

Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPN) provide direct services to persons whose primary health needs are related to their emotional or mental well-being. Psychiatric nurses deliver mental health education programs to a variety of patients and are employed in a variety of settings including general hospitals, mental health centres, community clinics, personal care homes, crisis centres, community agencies, psycho-social rehabilitation programs, community agencies and companies, or they may be self-employed

General duty registered psychiatric nurses perform some or all of the following duties depending upon their practice setting:

- Assess patients to identify appropriate psychiatric nursing interventions.
- Collaborate with members of an inter-disciplinary health team to plan, implement, co-ordinate, and evaluate client care in consultation with clients and their families.  
Assess patients to identify appropriate psychiatric nursing interventions.
- Collaborate with members of an inter-disciplinary health team to plan, implement, co-ordinate, and evaluate client care in consultation with clients and their families.
- Administer medicines and treatments as prescribed by a physician or according to established policies and protocols.
- Monitor, assess, address, document and report symptoms and changes in client's condition.
- Operate or monitor basic medical equipment and assist in basic medical procedures.
- Develop and implement discharge planning processes.
- Teach clients and their families about the illness so that the illness can be managed in the least restrictive environment possible.
- Community psychiatric nurses (sometimes called community mental health workers) provide therapy and monitor the effectiveness of medication; they facilitate the development of natural support networks, and provide other professional services that increase the client's chance of living in a community setting. They also provide emergency, assessment, and ongoing therapeutic services to persons from the community in which they are based.
- Psychiatric nurses in psycho-geriatric assessment teams provide consultation to various agencies about the program needs of clients, and train the agency staff for follow-up. Psychiatric Nurses working with persons with developmental disabilities work towards training in life skills and in communication with their clients. Psychiatric nursing educators provide education to psychiatric nursing students or to staff in a mental health setting or program.

### SALARY RANGE

\$73,000 - \$86,000

### RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

Senior 4

Biology 40S

Chemistry 40S

English 40S

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RPN can also be classified as the following:

- Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN)
- Community Mental Health Worker or Community Service Worker
- Mental Health Consultant
- Psychiatric Emergency Nurse
- Mental Health Education Nurse or Resource Nurse
- Psychiatric Liaison Nurse or Graduate Psychiatric Nurse

## LINKS TO SITES:

Manitoba Nurses Union [www.manitobanurses.ca](http://www.manitobanurses.ca)

Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Canada [www.rpnc.ca](http://www.rpnc.ca)

The Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses [www.cfmhn.org](http://www.cfmhn.org)

Mental Health Commission of Canada [www.mentalhealthcommission.ca](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca)

Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health [www.camimh.ca](http://www.camimh.ca)

The Canadian Nursing Students' Association [www.cnsa.ca](http://www.cnsa.ca)

Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada [www.anac.on.ca](http://www.anac.on.ca)

## Brandon University

Brandon University offers a four-year program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing (B.Sc.P.N.) which is housed within the Faculty of Health Studies. The program is offered both onsite in Brandon and offsite to students in Winnipeg. Some courses are available by distance study to students enrolled in Campus Manitoba programs. The program combines psychiatric nursing education with studies in Arts and Science. Graduates of the program will be eligible to write the qualifying examinations for licensure as a Registered Psychiatric Nurse (R.P.N.) with the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Manitoba (CRPNM).

The Faculty of Health Studies, in collaboration with the University of Winnipeg, offers the 4 years of the Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing (BScPN) program at an off-campus site located in the lower level of the Rice Centre at 491 Portage Ave., Winnipeg. Please phone the student advisor Cathy Demas at (204) 727-7403 or e-mail [atdemas@brandonu.ca](mailto:atdemas@brandonu.ca) for more information. Psychiatric Nursing (69) courses are offered by a combination of on-site and distance delivery methods.

## General Office

Phone: (204) 727-7409 or

(204) 571-8569

Fax: (204) 571-8568

email: [healthstudies@brandonu.ca](mailto:healthstudies@brandonu.ca)

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