

JOB DESCRIPTION: Ward Nurse, Sierra Leone

Title of the post: Ward Nurse (based in Kenema, Sierra Leone)
Duration of mission: 1 month

Context

Following the recent outbreak of VHF in West Africa the Red Cross has a need for Medical staff. Due to the rapidly evolving situation surrounding the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, with 3 countries primarily affected (Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia) the International Federation of the Red Cross has an urgent need for medical staff to work in Kenema District Sierra Leone. This is in response to a request to the Red Cross Movement to support the Ministry of Health in Sierra Leone with the establishment of an Ebola isolation unit for the care and management of patients with VHF.

Sierra Leone Red Cross Society are coordinating community based interventions to tackle the epidemic, conducting awareness raising activities and hygiene promotion, tracing people who have been in contact with those infected, and managing dead bodies.

Function

The ward nurse is responsible for planning his/her activities on the viral haemorrhagic disease (Ebola) ward at IFRC Hospital, Kenema, Sierra Leone. The nurse provides care to the patients, attends to their needs, and ensures they are comfortable. S/he records and communicates information regarding the care of the patients.

Position within the Organization

The nurse will work as part of a team of International Red Cross and Red Crescent nurses and medical doctors. He/ She will provide supportive care to patients from the community infected with VHD.

Main responsibilities

- He/she is responsible to work on the ward of the IFRC hospital and provide supportive care to a range of patients
- The nurse is able to develop and maintain good working relationships with the various health actors.
- He/she organizes or participates to all necessary internal or external meetings to ensure continuity and quality of care to patients.

Main tasks

- Plans and organizes the nursing care and personal hygiene of his/her patients in an isolated environment.
- Gives treatment at the appropriate time as prescribed by the doctor.
- Ensures that each patient always has ORS or plain water for rehydration.
- Assists patients in taking fluid as required or as prescribed by the doctor.
- Informs the supervisor of the burial team when a patient dies.
- Ensures that the items for admission are in place before each admission.
- Explains the rules of the VHF Treatment Unit to all new patients, and their relatives.
- Provides the necessary protective gear to the relative and ensures that they are familiar with the rules of the VHF Treatment unit.
- Able to conduct local based training of local nursing staff, midwives and other hospital staff.
- Reports orally and in writing all relevant information for patients during and end of shift
- Contribute to epidemic surveillance activities, as indicated, and collection of information relating to performance of hospital
- Conduct health education and promotion activities with patients, families and communities as required

Place of work

- Based in Kenema, Sierra Leone

Working hours:

- Working hours according to shift requirements.

Management responsibilities

- Able to work as part of an international team

Qualifications & Experience required for the post

1. Registered nurse with significant hospital experience
2. Acute care experience and / or work experience with highly dependent patients is mandatory.
3. Public health, Tropical Medicine or primary health care experience is an asset.
4. Work experience in a resource poor environment.

Main skills required for the post

- Excellent communication skills
- Well organized and analytical
- Flexible, has the ability to plan and fix priorities
- Ability to work and deal with difficult conditions
- Ability to meet stress with emotional stability, objectivity and optimism
- Understand and awareness of infection control protocols and procedures and their application to an outbreak scenario.
- Awareness and experience of working cross culturally
- Works well in a multi-disciplinary team
- Works well under pressure
- Can live in basic conditions
- Flexible to the changing needs and development of the programme activities
- Works efficiently in a challenging context
- Adherence to the Red Cross principles
- Strict adherence to infection control and good knowledge of barrier nursing