

# Health Care CAREERS



# Nursing Positions

Nursing is an industry that is thriving in terms of demand.

However, the role of a nurse isn't limited to the position of RN.

Numerous jobs offer incredible opportunities and a rewarding career path.

According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, registered nursing jobs will experience a 12% increase between 2018-2028 and is expected to add 371,500 jobs. If this doesn't sound like the right position for you, but a career in nursing is your desired path, check out these other in-demand options.

## LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

LPNs work with RNs to adhere to a care plan for patients. One of the key benefits of acquiring this position is that a diploma can be obtained within 12 months. The need for these experts is expected to increase by up to 11 percent by 2026, according to the BLS. Here is a look at a few of their important responsibilities.

- Understanding a patient's history and maintaining documents.
- Consulting with registered nurses about care plans.
- Analyzing basic health



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behaviors such as vital signs and overall conditions.

- Acting as an assistant during testing or procedures.

LPNs work in numerous medical settings, including nursing homes, hospitals and physician offices.

## ICU NURSE

An intensive care nurse is an RN who specializes in crit-

ical care. Once licensing is obtained, one should gain exposure of on-site training by working in an entry-level role in a facility's ICU.

Typically, it takes at least two years of experience working at a clinical level before becoming certified as a Critical Care Registered Nurse.

Since patients are often in

life-or-death situations, the role of specialists includes assessing their conditions, monitor the quality of care and act as a representative to discuss the condition with a patient's family.

## HOME HEALTH NURSE

Home health nursing is available to RNs, licensed vocational nurses and assis-

tants, according to Registerednurse.org. These specialty experts perform health care in a patient's home but typically report their assignments and treatments to a regular facility. In the home, RNs can administer medication, perform physicals, work with a physician to develop a care plan and assist with mobility.

# In-Demand Careers for 2020

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects a demand in health care to increase by 14% between 2018-2028.

This significant growth is projected to create 1.9 million new jobs within the industry. An aging population is the main contributor to the growing need for medical employees.

If you're considering pursuing a health care role, you should know the most in-demand jobs for this year and their projected growth. Here are a few of the fastest-growing fields and how demand will grow through 2028, per the LBS.

## **HOME HEALTH AIDE: 36% INCREASE**

Typically, to become a home health aide, candidates must hold a high school diploma or equivalent. The median salary is about \$24,060 per year and can be performed in homes, nursing facilities and service programs. Their primary role is to offer support with daily tasks like bathing and dressing, laundry and organizing patient's schedules and appointments.

## **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS: 33% INCREASE**

An assistant for an occupational therapist generally helps patients recover and



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improve after accidents, to maintain the skills needed for daily living. They usually work in hospitals, nursing facilities or therapist offices. Their median salary for 2018 was \$57,620 per year and required an associate degree from an accredited program while operating under strict state regulations.

## **GENETIC COUNSELORS: 27% INCREASE**

The role of a genetic counselor is primarily to assess risks for genetic diseases or congenital disabilities for individuals or families. They are commonly found in university medical centers, hospitals and laboratories. A median salary for this posi-

tion was approximately \$80,370 in 2018 and the typical entry-level education is a master's degree.

## **PHLEBOTOMISTS: 23% INCREASE**

A phlebotomist works in hospitals, blood donor centers and doctor's offices to draw blood for tests, transfu-

sion and research. Most employees in the field must receive certification from a phlebotomy program rather than obtain a degree from an accredited college.

The median pay for phlebotomists in 2018 was around \$34,480 per year and an increase of 29,500 jobs is expected before 2028.

# High-Paying Non-Physician Jobs

In addition to physicians, the health care industry requires employees in numerous roles to provide quality medical attention.

Many lavish careers can be obtained without extensive education, completion of a residency or by racking up student debt. If you're interested in joining the field in a role other than as a physician, consider one of these high-paying careers with expectations to rise in demand.

## **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST**

The American Speech-Language Hearing Association states that a speech-language pathologist works with children and adults to:

- Evaluate and diagnose speech, language, communication and swallowing disorders.
- Offer training and resources to family and caregivers of patients.

- Treat speech, language, communication and swallowing disorders.

- Work with other professionals from other fields.

ASHA suggests an expert makes between \$70,000-\$93,000 annually. Candidates must receive a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology, earn a graduate degree and pass a national examination



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before becoming certified.

## **RADIATION THERAPIST**

According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, these professionals treat cancer and other diseases by administering radiation treatment. Experts are required to rotate in one of three major areas: simulation, planning and treatment.

By using scans like X-rays, CT scans and MRI, a radiation

therapist can determine where the tumor is located and explain the process to a patient. During the planning stage, a therapist acts under an oncologist's directions to determine the best way to aim radiation at a tumor without affecting healthy tissue. During treatment, a technician ensures the necessary equipment is available and administers a radiation dose. They usually grow close with their patients as they

act as emotional support during the process.

The median salary for a radiation therapist was \$82,330 in 2018.

## **ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETICS PROFESSIONALS**

When people lose limbs after accidents or other medical emergencies, specialists in orthotics and prosthetics help in regaining mobility by fitting

them with artificial limbs. This career path requires dedicated research to assess their functional status, muscle development and sensory function. Typically, these experts are employed by rehabilitation centers, hospitals and specialty clinics. To enter the field, candidates usually need a master's degree and certification and complete a residency before accreditation. The median salary for 2018 was \$69,120.

# Benefits of a Health Care Career

Pursuing a career in the health care industry can lead to numerous benefits and opportunities for growth.

Aside from earning a quality salary, workers in the field learn on-site lessons from both peers and those they serve. You don't have to be a doctor or surgeon to make a difference in a clinic, hospital or office. Check out the advantages waiting for you when you take a journey into a healthcare career.

## NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES

Even beginning your health care career in an entry-level position can open doors to multiple opportunities. Being in an environment with highly educated medical experts can create motivation for you to pursue advanced goals and higher education.

Another perk of involvement in this fast-paced work setting is networking with professionals in different fields who can advise you on the steps to take to achieve a new role. Many hospitals are willing to cross-train employees for different positions or even cover the costs for their workers to obtain certification for a medical career.

## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Since the health care industry is growing at such a



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fast pace, employers work to attract and retain top talent. They typically offer exceptional incentives like sponsored health insurance, life insurance, vacation and paid time off for sick days.

When searching for a health facility to take on a new position, be sure to consider the benefits offered by

different hiring managers.

## HELPING YOUR NEIGHBORS

A rewarding aspect of working in healthcare is aiding residents in your community during their time of need. Even in an administrative role, your presence can enlighten patients and calm

their nerves before necessary tests or discussions with a doctor.

Health care employees should be compassionate and enthusiastic when working with the public. Medical-related roles result in high levels of trust between professional and patient and can create lifelong relationships.

## JOB SECURITY

Since the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics expects the health care industry to add 1.9 million new jobs through 2028, hiring managers will continually look to recruit new talent. With the population getting older, a career in health care continues to look up for interested jobseekers.

# Work at Home Health Care Jobs

According to recent data from the United States Census, 5.2% of employed Americans worked at home in 2017 — approximately 8 million people.

A Gallup survey showed work-from-home careers help companies retain their employees. If you're considering a career in health care but like the idea of working from home, the industry has numerous positions where you can apply.

Since being efficient in a home office requires due diligence to meet deadlines and ensure you're performing quality work, it's essential to have a firm understanding of your responsibilities. Make sure to stay in touch with your hiring managers and those employed to provide feedback. By blending independence and compatibility with peers, you can thrive in one of these promising positions.



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## TELEPHONE TRIAGE NURSE

Phone triage nurses operate hotlines after hours for places like physician's offices, crisis hotlines and hospitals. Their primary responsibility is taking calls from patients, assess their situation and respond accordingly. It's a challenging role as they must decide if emergency action is necessary only through a conversation, rather

than physically addressing someone's condition.

To enter this field, applicants must hold at least a four-year bachelor's of science in nursing or a two-year associate degree in nursing. Sometimes, an employer will request additional certification for a telephone triage nurse which is offered by the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing.

## MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST

According to a report from The Balance, about 57,400 people worked as a medical transcriptionist in 2016. Professionals are expected to translate dictated recordings of doctors and medical experts into documents and reports.

The job typically requires a

high school diploma and a basic computer setup at home. However, since the field is competitive, acquiring certification from a community college or vocational school can increase a candidate's chance of getting the job. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states the median salary for 2018 was about 34,770 per year.

## RECRUITER

If you love meeting and connecting with people, a job as a recruiter can provide an exceptional balance of at-home work and social engagement. Medical institutions are continually recruiting new talent to join their professional team. Recruiters scan people and choose those with similar goals as their employer client.

# Physicians Making House Calls

In the past, physicians would regularly make house calls to visit ill people inside their own homes. In fact, the American Academy of Family Physicians states that in 1930, over 40% of patient encounters occurred on their property.

By 1950, this act dropped to about 10% of health care appointments before falling to merely one percent by 1980. Recent years show this trend is beginning to resume as a rapid number of Americans are living with disabilities and are unable to travel to a medical facility. Check out more information on how physicians are adjusting to the new call for more house visits, as reported by the AAFP.

## AN INCREASE IN HOUSE VISITS

The uptick in house visits is thought to be because approximately 15% of people between 75-85 require assistance with daily living and 36% report problems with walking more than a block. According to billing through Medicare B, home care has increased substantially throughout the last decades.

The year 1999 had a reported 1.4 million home visits before increasing to 2.3 million



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appointments by 2009. The next year, an AAFP survey showed that academy members reported making at least one house visit per year, but in 2013 the statistic dropped to 13%.

However, as the population grows older and assisted-living facilities are unable to provide space for citizens, house visits statistics are expected to surge.

## ARE HOME VISITS BENEFICIAL?

A home visit program is beneficial for both the physician and their patient. Those who require assistance gain the convenience of avoiding waiting rooms, avoid traveling and ease stress by being evaluated in a comfortable setting.

Traveling physicians are offered a unique perspective

in the patient/doctor relationship by viewing an ill person's environment and support system. This may lead to discovering an issue in the home that is aggravating someone's symptoms.

Physicians can also connect with patients who may not be able to visit a physical facility, extending their network of clients.

## CAN HOME VISITS CHANGE HEALTH CARE?

Physician house calls may change the costs Americans face for health care. According to the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, of more than 700 patients enrolled in a house call program, 17% faced lower health care costs than those staying in medical facilities.

# Careers in Animal Health Care

Health care experts for animals enjoy vast work environments, numerous benefits and rewarding careers.

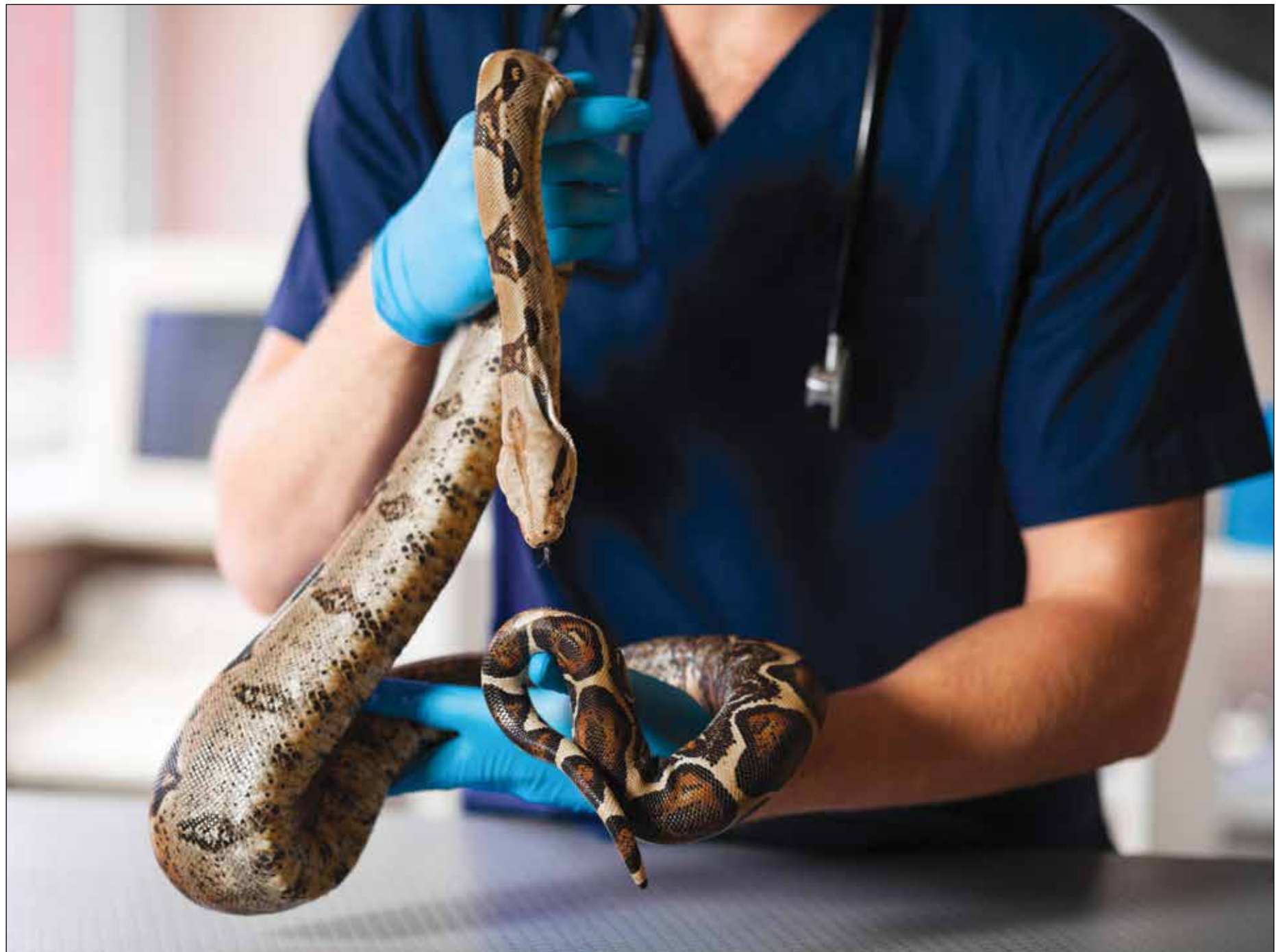
Positions are not limited to domestic pets and can offer travel opportunities, exotic patients and job security. Check out some of the satisfying fields you can join and become a part of the animal health care field.

## ANIMAL BEHAVIORIST

Experts in this specialty position are often considered the psychologists of the animal world. Professionals are tasked with understanding how animals interact with each other and their environments. Their analysis is important when considering if one should be released back into the wild or if domesticated pets are suitable for adoption or require more training. The Animal Behavior Society suggests employees are needed in places like zoos, aquariums, conservation groups and museums.

## ZOO VETERINARY TECHNICIAN

Another field where exotic animals are the usual patients, a zoo veterinary technician works with a veterinarian to maintain different species. Responsibilities include surgical site preparation, taking samples, and per-



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forming lab tests and injections. To be eligible for this exciting career path, one must participate in traditional vet tech classes, which involves a two-year associate's degree. It is also required to complete a Veterinary Technician National Exam as required by local state regulations.

## WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR

A beneficial aspect of the animal health care system is in the role of wildlife rehabilitator. Experts analyze wounded or abandoned species and provide care until they are healthy enough to be released. They are expected to decide whether an animal

requires attention from a veterinarian and coordinate treatment. Responsibilities include exceptional wound management, nutritional needs for various species and restraint and capture protocols.

Settings for this type of work can vary but are commonly used by governmental

agencies, nonprofit groups and humane societies. Often, rehabilitators have full-time jobs as a veterinarian, zoologist or biologist and tend to wildlife during times of distress like natural disasters.

Rehabilitators typically need licensing from their local state and federal government to get started in this industry.