



CHAPTER
19

Patient Care: Nursing

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

After careful study of this chapter, you should be able to:

1. State the education, training, and legal requirements for becoming a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, and certified nursing assistant, p. 111.
2. Describe the typical work responsibilities in each of these nursing professions, p. 112.
3. List personal characteristics desirable in someone who wishes to be a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or certified nursing assistant, p. 113.
4. Identify employment opportunities and key trends for these occupations, p. 113.

KEY TERMS

advanced practice nurse
certified nursing assistant
(CNA)

in-service education
licensed practical nurse
(LPN)

nurse practice acts
nursing

registered nurse
(RN)

This chapter profiles three nursing professions that can be broadly defined as caring for people who are ill, injured, or unable to care for themselves in some other way.

These occupations include the following:

- **Registered nursing** is the largest nursing occupation and the nation's largest health care occupation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that in the near future, more jobs will be added for registered nurses than for any other occupation. It anticipates robust growth, especially in physicians' offices, home health care services, nursing care facilities, and employment services.
- **Licensed practical nurses** perform many of the routine tasks of nursing under the direction of a physician or registered nurse. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects significant employment growth for licensed practical

nurses in the future. Many jobs will be available in home health care services and nursing care facilities.

- **Certified nursing assistants** perform simple, basic nursing functions and care for patients' personal needs under the direction of a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse. Nursing assistants, aides, and orderlies rank ninth among all occupations in expected job growth. Nursing and residential care facilities and hospitals will be top employers.

The nursing profession offers steady employment, opportunities that suit many different career interests, solid paths for advancement, and the ability to change employers with relative ease. Learn what it takes to become a member of one of the three nursing occupations profiled here.

BUILD YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Objective 1: State the education, training, and legal requirements for becoming a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, and certified nursing assistant.

Jumble

After answering the questions below about aspects of certain types of nursing, use the circled letters to form the answer to this jumble (punctuation [e.g., hyphens, apostrophes, etc.] counts as a character).

Clue: When the certified nurse-midwife had delivered 5,000 babies in her 25-year career, she realized her practice was . . . ? “_____”

1. Three main types of approved educational programs lead to licensure as registered nurse: _____ programs, associate's degree programs, and bachelor's degree programs.
2. Many hospitals and health care agencies provide on-site education and training for nurses and others employees, a practice called _____ _____ education.
3. The practice of nursing is regulated in each state through state laws known as nurse practice _____.
4. Acceptance to a licensed practical nursing program generally requires a high school diploma or the equivalent; to get a license, a candidate must graduate from a state-approved program and take the _____ .
5. Most licensed practical nursing programs last about a year and include both classroom study and supervised _____ practice that usually takes place in a hospital.
6. To become a certified nursing assistant, a candidate must complete a state-approved training program and pass a _____ _____ test.
7. Certified nursing assistant training programs, which must be a minimum of 75 hours, are available at _____ _____ schools, community colleges, the Red Cross, and health care facilities.
8. To remain certified, certified nursing assistants must complete a minimum of 12 hours of in-service _____ each year.

Objective 2: Describe the typical work responsibilities for a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, and a certified nursing assistant.

True or False?

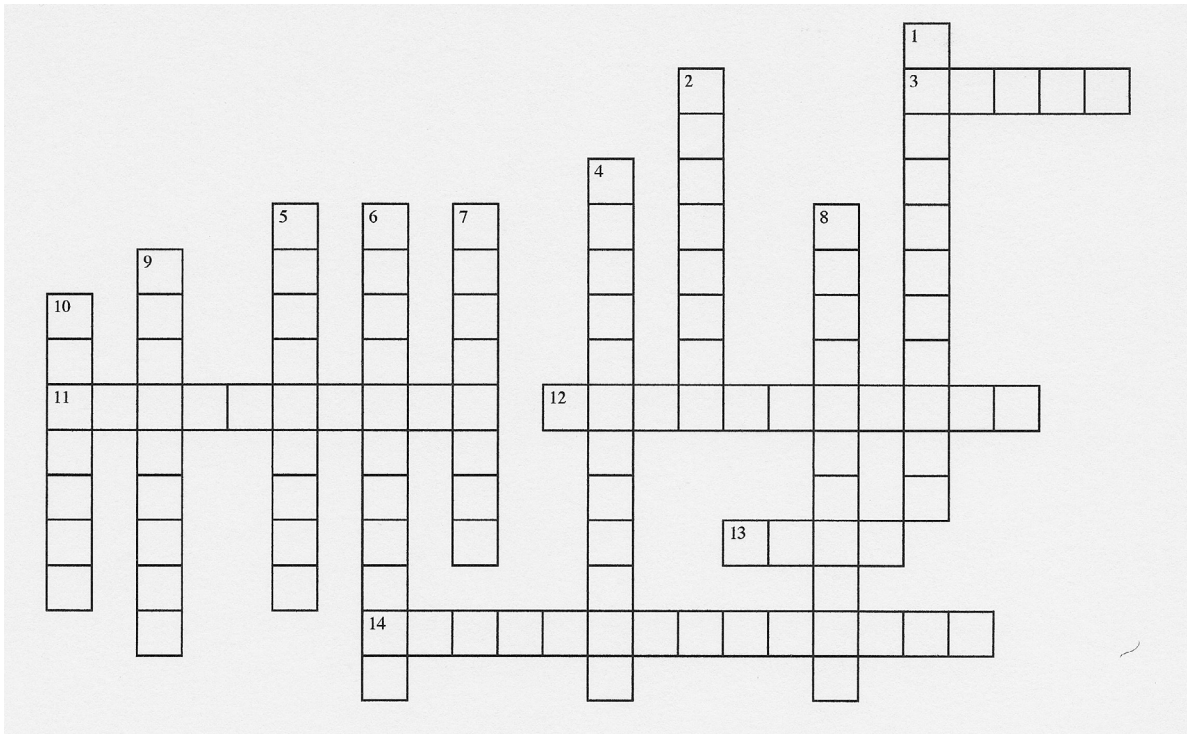
After reviewing the section, “Work Responsibilities” for each profession, read the statements below and circle T if they are true or F if they are false.

1. T F The main responsibility of most registered nurses is the care and treatment of patients, often beginning with reviewing the day’s assignments and receiving a report from nurses on the previous shift.
2. T F Many registered nurses specialize, such as geriatric nurses, who work with children, and pediatric nurses, who work with older patients.
3. T F When a registered nurse is administering oral medication to a patient but is too busy to watch the patient swallow it, he or she may leave it at the patient’s bedside.
4. T F Licensed practical nurses do many of the hands-on tasks typically associated with nursing, such as helping patients with personal hygiene, dressing, and sometimes eating.
5. T F Licensed practical nurses often supervise registered nurses.
6. T F When cleaning wounds, the licensed practical nurse works from the area of most contamination to least contamination.
7. T F In addition to providing patients with hands-on, personal care, certified nursing assistants also have light housekeeping duties, such as making beds and tidying up rooms.
8. T F Certified nursing assistants often assist other medical staff in their work by helping set up equipment and moving and storing supplies.
9. T F In nursing care facilities, certified nursing assistants generally have the least contact with patients compared to other members of the health care team.
10. T F To avoid straining the lower back when helping a patient turn in bed, a certified nursing assistant should stand opposite the center of the patient’s body, with feet spread to about shoulder width and one foot ahead of the other, then flex his or her knees so that the leg muscles will be used to do the pulling.

Objectives 3 and 4: List personal characteristics desirable in someone who wishes to be a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or certified nursing assistant, and identify employment opportunities and key trends for these occupations.

Crossword

Complete this crossword puzzle using clues across and down to familiarize yourself with the health care fields of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants.



Across

3. The nursing assistant field is growing faster than average because of the growth of what population and resulting increased need for long-term care?
11. Among the trends driving the growth of the registered nurse field is increased emphasis on what kind of care?
12. As part of their role in a health care team, licensed practical nurses should be capable of following orders and working under what?
13. Registered nurses must be able to interact well with others as part of a what?
14. Registered nurses must have a high degree of personal what?

Down

1. Because nursing assistants work on a team, this is an important quality they should have to show they are willing members
2. Because the workload can be unpredictable and priorities can change with little or no notice, the registered nurse must be what?
4. To make careful, considered decisions, the registered nurse must have this (2 words)
5. Registered nurses must be what in order to sift through the many different needs of patients and other responsibilities and prioritize them?
6. This type of facility has been identified as a setting that will require increasing numbers of licensed practical nurses in the near future (2 words)
7. When patients react with anger or frustration at common nursing tasks or work seems repetitive and time-consuming, licensed practical nurses and nursing assistants need this to handle these situations without showing negative emotions
8. The work of licensed practical nurses and nursing assistants can be demanding, so they must be strong in what way?
9. To be quick to note any changes in a patient's condition that should be recorded or communicated to a physician, licensed practical nurses must be what?
10. Because licensed practical nurses and nursing assistants spend many hours providing bedside care, they need this to understand patients and their particular situations and feelings

EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Essay Question

In *The 50 Best Careers of 2010* (<http://www.usnews.com/money/careers/articles/2009/12/28/registered-nurse.html>), a national director of career services states that, “While clinical and technical nursing skills are a must-have, the skills that set the successful RN apart from the rest are not the ones learned in a textbook . . .” Read further, and write a brief essay explaining what these skills are. Why would they be important to potential employers? What other advice does Ms. Hennessy give?