

# *Nursing*

*Clinical Nurse Specialist, Home Health Aide, Licensed Practical Nurse,  
Nurse Anesthetist, Nurse Midwife, Nurse Practitioner,  
Nursing Assistant/Aide, Registered Nurse*



## Clinical Nurse Specialist, Home Health Aide

### Clinical Nurse Specialist

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) are registered nurses (RNs) who specialize in a specific field of clinical practice. Some common areas of specialization are cardiac rehabilitation, cardiology, community health, critical care, diabetes, emergency services, gerontology, maternal and child health, medical surgical health, neonatal health, oncology, pediatrics, psychiatric-mental health, organ transplants, and trauma. Clinical nurse specialists also may work as part of a clinical research team or as educators.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Clinical nurse specialists work in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, doctors' offices, schools, occupational settings, and independent practices. Certain specialties are more suited to specific locations such as nursing homes, rehabilitative facilities, and maternity centers. Full-time work is usually available throughout the day.

**ANNUAL WAGES**

National .....\$46,675

*Average annual earnings as of March 2000. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Service Administration, Bureau of Health Professions Division of Nursing.*

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

Clinical nurse specialists are RNs with a bachelor's degree who go on to complete graduate programs (master's level or above). To work as a clinical nurse specialist, you must take a national examination for certification and be certified in a clinical specialty from a national credentialing body.

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Nurses Association  
National League for Nursing

*For professional organization address and phone information see Appendix B.*

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

*For a listing of educational programs in New York State for Nursing see page 49.*

### Home Health Aide

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Home health aides, also referred to as home care aides and personal care attendants, cares for elderly and disabled people in their own homes. Often, clients have just been released from a hospital or nursing home, or suffer from a debilitating illness that restricts independence. Duties performed by home health aides include, but are not limited to, housekeeping chores like laundry and cleaning; planning and cooking meals; bathing, dressing, and grooming the patient; reminding the patient to take medications; assisting in movement and exercise; and serving as a companion inside the home and out. Records are kept documenting the patient's daily activities and progress of the patient.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Home health aides are employed by home health care agencies that maintain a large pool of clients. On a typical day, a home health aide may see five or more patients; the length of time spent with each varies from an hour to an entire afternoon. Some health aides may establish a relationship with a patient that lasts years. Most days are spent one-on-one with the patient; supervisory personnel are usually not involved. Part-time, weekend, and evening work should be expected.

**ANNUAL WAGES**

National .....\$18,242  
New York State .....\$18,491

*National and New York State median annual earnings for 2003. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

State training requirements for home health aides are variable and some states require no formal training. For cases where Medicare offers reimbursement,

the federal government requires passing a 12-part competency exam that includes communication skills, basic knowledge of body function and changes in the body, proper procedures in the event of an emergency, and nutrition, as well as other skills involving the care of ailing individuals. They must also have at least 75 hours of classroom time and training supervised by a registered nurse. For home health aides seeking national certification, the National Association for Home Care and Hospice awards this status.

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

American Nurses Association  
National Association for Homecare and Hospice  
National League for Nursing

*For professional organization address and phone information see Appendix B.*

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

*For a listing of educational programs in New York State for Nursing see page 49.*

## Licensed Practical Nurse, Nurse Anesthetist

### Licensed Practical Nurse

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

Licensed practical nurses (LPNs) provide bedside care of patients and perform a variety of other nursing duties. Under direct supervision of registered nurses and physicians, LPNs assume the responsibilities of taking vital signs, observing patients and seeing to their comfort, collecting specimens for laboratory tests, administering medications, dressing wounds, starting IVs, and in some cases supervising nursing aides or assistants.

#### WORK ENVIRONMENT

LPNs may work in a variety of settings including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, private homes, or institutions. Although 40-hour workweeks are typical, LPNs may work hours other than nine-to-five. Patients in large facilities require around-the-clock monitoring by LPNs and other health care personnel.

#### ANNUAL WAGES

National .....\$32,386  
 New York State .....\$33,758

*National and New York State median annual earnings for 2003. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

#### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Individuals must complete a state-approved practical nursing program, which is usually offered through vocational/technical schools, community colleges, university, or hospital. Individuals who have successfully completed a training program must pass a licensing examination to earn the designation of licensed practical nurse (LPN). To become certified as a licensed practical nurse in New York State, individuals must meet New York State licensing requirements. Detailed information for New York State licensing requirements can be found online at: [www.labor.state.ny.us/business\\_ny/employer\\_responsibilities/olcny/menu.htm](http://www.labor.state.ny.us/business_ny/employer_responsibilities/olcny/menu.htm).

#### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc.  
 National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
 National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses  
 National League for Nursing  
 New York State Nurses Association

*For professional organization address and phone information see Appendix B.*

#### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

*For a listing of educational programs in New York State for Nursing see page 49.*

### Nurse Anesthetist

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

Anesthesia is the use of special drugs to temporarily block sensation in an area of the body or enable a patient to be kept unconscious and pain-free during surgery. Anesthesia is administered by either an anesthesiologist (a physician who specializes in this area of practice) or a nurse anesthetist (a registered nurse who is specially trained in anesthesiology). As a key member of the operating team, the nurse anesthetist combines professional nursing skills with the science of anesthesia and works in collaboration with a doctor or dentist to administer and monitor anesthesia.

#### WORK ENVIRONMENT

Nurse anesthetists work in a setting in which anesthesia is delivered; traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons; ambulatory surgical centers; health maintenance organizations (HMOs); U.S. Military and Public Health Services; and Veterans Administration medical facilities. A nurse anesthetist's work schedule will revolve around a facility's operating schedule.

#### ANNUAL WAGES

National .....\$93,787

*Average annual earnings as of March 2000. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Service Administration, Bureau of Health Professions Division of Nursing.*

#### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To become a nurse anesthetist, you must be a registered nurse with either a bachelor's degree in nursing or a bachelor's degree in a biophysical science, and then complete a minimum 24-month training course in anesthesiology from an approved school of nurse anesthesia. Often, training is through a graduate school and leads to a master's degree. After completing the training course, you must pass an examination by the Council on Certification for Nurse Anesthetists to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

#### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
 American Nurses Association

*For professional organization address and phone information see Appendix B.*

#### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

*For a listing of educational programs in New York State for Nursing see page 49.*

## Nurse Midwife, Nurse Practitioner

### Nurse Midwife

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

A nurse midwife is a registered nurse or an equivalently prepared individual who has successfully completed a recognized program of study and clinical experience in obstetrics, and who is qualified to provide care for expectant mothers whose pregnancies are apparently normal. A midwife provides professional care during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and after-birth phases for both the mother and the newborn infant. Other duties include preventive health care, counseling, prescribing medication (most states), conducting clinical research, and teaching. In New York State, a licensed midwife may also provide well-woman gynecological services.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Nurse midwives may choose to have a private practice or may be employed in hospitals, independent birthing centers, or clinics. Hours will vary as to place of employment, although nurse midwives are usually on call and must be available to expectant mothers at all times.

**ANNUAL WAGES**

National .....\$64,940

*Average annual earnings as of March 2000. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Service Administration, Bureau of Health Professions Division of Nursing.*

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

Nurse midwives are registered nurses with a bachelor's degree in nursing who receive instruction in prenatal, intrapartum, postpartum, newborn care, gynecology, and the care of women in the childbearing cycle. Educational programs provide either a certificate or master's degree. Programs in nurse midwifery take one to two years depending on the program and its prerequisites. Graduates must then pass an examination given by the American College of Nurse-Midwives Certification Council, Inc. To become licensed as a nurse midwife in New York State, individuals must meet New York State licensing requirements. Detailed information for New York State licensing requirements can be found online at: [www.labor.state.ny.us/business\\_ny/employer\\_responsibilities/olcny/menu.htm](http://www.labor.state.ny.us/business_ny/employer_responsibilities/olcny/menu.htm).

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- American College of Nurse-Midwives
- American Nurses Association
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing
- National League of Nursing
- New York State Nurses Association

*For professional organization address and phone information see Appendix B.*

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

*For a listing of educational programs in New York State for Nursing see page 49.*

### Nurse Practitioner

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are nurses who have completed a master's nursing degree or postmaster's training in preventive and medical health care to individuals and families in collaboration with a physician. NPs provide comprehensive health promotion services to ambulatory patients, evaluate presenting problems at the patient's initial contact with the primary care system, and provide continuing care to patients with acute and stable chronic illnesses. Nurse practitioners also educate patients about staying healthy. They often take care of special populations such as the rural poor, migrant farm workers, elderly persons, and children. In communities or facilities with few physicians, nurse practitioners are especially important as providers of health care. Nurse practitioners can specialize in adult health, acute care, geriatrics, family health, school health, and women's health, or may function as clinical teachers.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Nurse practitioners work in settings such as rural health clinics, public health departments, community health centers, hospitals, physicians' offices, nursing homes, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), student health clinics, home health agencies, migrant health clinics, and prisons. Work hours may vary, although typical full-time business hours are popular.

**ANNUAL WAGES**

National .....\$60,126

*Average annual earnings as of March 2000. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Service Administration, Bureau of Health Professions Division of Nursing.*

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

Nurse practitioners are registered nurses with a bachelor's degree who go on to complete graduate or certificate nurse practitioner programs. The program usually takes one to two years, depending on the educational institution. Nurse practitioners are nationally certified by one of four national certifying groups such as the American Nurses Credentialing

Center, National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, and the National Certification Corporation. To become licensed as a nurse practitioner in New York State, individuals must meet New York State licensing requirements. Detailed information for New York State licensing requirements can be found online at: [www.labor.state.ny.us/business\\_ny/employer\\_responsibilities/olcny/menu.htm](http://www.labor.state.ny.us/business_ny/employer_responsibilities/olcny/menu.htm).

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American College of Nurse Practitioners
- American Health Care Association
- American Nurses Association
- National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
- The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State

*For professional organization address and phone information see Appendix B.*

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

*For a listing of educational programs in New York State for Nursing see page 49.*

## Nursing Assistant/Aide, Registered Nurse

### Nursing Assistant/Aide

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

Nursing assistants or aides, also referred to as hospital attendants, provide basic patient care under direct nursing supervision. Typical work activities include attending to a patient's comfort, hygiene, and meals; assisting with patient mobility; checking temperatures and vital signs; keeping the patient's room and bed tidy; and reporting any changes in patient demeanor or agility to nurses or doctors on duty. Especially in nursing homes, interaction with the nursing aide may be the one of the few contacts a patient has with the outside world.

#### WORK ENVIRONMENT

Nursing assistants and similar workers usually find employment in nursing homes and hospitals. Others may choose to work privately for families or in homes for the aged. Most nursing aides are full-time workers, but part-time shifts in the evenings and weekends are also available. These shifts are often the most convenient for students at the high school or college level.

#### ANNUAL WAGES

National .....\$20,488  
New York State .....\$26,728

*National and New York State median annual earnings for 2003. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

#### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Nursing assistant training is offered by vocational/technical schools, colleges, and by some employers. Training includes instruction in anatomy, physiology, communication skills, emergency procedure awareness, basic nutrition, personal hygiene, and grooming. Nursing assistants must pass a competency evaluation program in order to work in most practice settings.

#### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Health Care Association  
American Nurses Association

*For professional organization address and phone information see Appendix B.*

#### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

*For a listing of educational programs in New York State for Nursing see page 49.*

### Registered Nurse

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

Registered nurses (RNs) care for patients and promote their physical, mental, and social well-being. The duties performed by RNs include monitoring patient status and progress, assisting the physician in care and rehabilitation, administering medication, and advising patients and their families on preventive health care measures. State laws and specific employer restrictions specify exactly what a registered nurse is allowed to do on the job.

#### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

*Hospital Nurse* – provides bedside care in various hospital departments.

*Office Nurse* – works in the office and clinical care.

*Home Health Nurse* – provides long-term care nursing.

*Preoperative Nurse* – works in hospital surgical departments, ambulatory surgery, clinics and physician offices, and might serve as an RN first assistant, circulating nurse, or scrub nurse.

*Public Health Nurse* – provides community-wide health education.

*Occupational Health/Industrial Nurse* – provides work site care.

*Head Nurse/Nurse Supervisor* – provides managerial and administrative responsibilities.

RNs also specialize in many clinical areas or populations, such as intensive care or pediatrics.

#### WORK ENVIRONMENT

Registered nurses are found in acute care hospitals, sub-acute settings, rehabilitation and long-term care facilities, retirement communities, health maintenance organizations (HMOs), ambulatory care clinics, specialized outpatient clinics, urgent care, birthing centers, schools, mental health settings, home health, and public care. Registered nurses are employed in hospitals, physicians' offices, nursing homes, schools, or government agencies. Nurses work part-time or full-time, and their hours vary depending upon specialty and where they work. They may be on call and may work evenings, weekends and holidays.

#### ANNUAL WAGES

National .....\$49,546  
New York State .....\$56,139

*National and New York State median annual earnings for 2003. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

#### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To become qualified as a registered nurse, you must complete an accredited professional nursing program. This may be at hospital-based diploma programs, at the community college level (which awards an Associate Degree in Nursing [ADN] or an [AAS] Associate Degree of Applied Science), or at the baccalaureate level, which awards a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). The ADN program usually takes about two years; the bachelor's degree generally requires four years of college. Some university nursing programs accept transfer credits from community

colleges. To work as a nurse, you must pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. To become licensed as a professional registered nurse in New York State, individuals must meet New York State licensing requirements. Detailed information for New York State licensing requirements can be found online at: [www.labor.state.ny.us/business\\_ny/employer\\_responsibilities/olcny/menu.htm](http://www.labor.state.ny.us/business_ny/employer_responsibilities/olcny/menu.htm).

#### ADVANCED PRACTICE

Many nurses continue their formal education to earn a master's degree in nursing. This provides them with expanded career options, including the roles of clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist, administrator or educator.

#### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurse  
American Health Care Association  
American Hospital Association  
American Nurses Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
National League for Nursing  
National Student Nurses' Association  
New York Organization of Nurse Executives  
New York State Nurses Association

*For professional organization address and phone information see Appendix B.*

#### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

*For a listing of educational programs in New York State for Nursing see page 49.*

*New York State Educational Institutions*

**NEW YORK STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITH PROGRAMS IN NURSING**

*(For New York State educational institution address and phone informations, see Appendix A.)*

Adelphi University  
 Adirondack Community College  
 Adult Practical Nursing-Albany BOCES  
 Albany Medical College  
 Arnot-Ogden Medical Center School of Nursing  
 Broome Community College  
 Broome-Delaware-Tioga BOCES Program  
 Practical Nursing  
 Buffalo Vocational Technical Center-Practical Nursing  
 Caliber Training Institute  
 Cattaraugus County BOCES School of Practical Nursing  
 Cayuga County Community College  
 Cayuga Onondaga BOCES  
 Clinton Community College  
 Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington BOCES  
 Practical Nursing  
 Cochran School of Nursing  
 College of Mount Saint Vincent  
 Columbia University in the City of New York  
 Columbia-Greene Community College  
 Corning Community College  
 Crouse Hospital School of Nursing  
 City University of New York Borough of Manhattan  
 Community College  
 City University of New York Bronx Community College  
 City University of New York City College  
 City University of New York College of Staten Island  
 City University of New York Hostos Community College  
 City University of New York Hunter College  
 City University of New York Kingsborough  
 Community College  
 City University of New York La Guardia  
 Community College  
 City University of New York Lehman College  
 City University of New York Medgar Evers College  
 City University of New York New York City  
 Technical College  
 City University of New York Queensborough  
 Community College  
 City University of New York York College  
 Daemen College  
 Delaware Chenango Madison Ostego BOCES  
 Dominican College of Blauvelt  
 Dorothea Hopfer School of Nursing-Mt Vernon Hosp

Dover Technical School  
 Dutchess BOCES School of Practical Nursing  
 Dutchess Community College  
 D'Youville College  
 Eastern-Suffolk School of Practical Nursing BOCES  
 Ellis Hospital School of Nursing  
 Elmira College  
 Erie Community College-City Campus  
 Erie Community College-North Campus  
 Erie II Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES  
 Excelsior College  
 Finger Lakes Community College  
 Fulton-Montgomery Community College  
 Genesee Community College  
 Genesee Valley BOCES  
 Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery BOCES  
 Hartwick College  
 Helene Fuld College of Nursing  
 Herkimer County BOCES Practical Nursing Program  
 Hudson Valley Community College  
 Iona College  
 Isabella G Hart School of Practical Nursing  
 Jamestown Community College  
 Jefferson Community College  
 Jefferson-Lewis BOCES Program of Practical Nursing  
 Keuka College  
 Long Island College Hospital School of Nursing  
 Long Island University-Brooklyn Campus  
 Long Island University-C W Post Campus  
 Madison Oneida BOCES-Continuing Education  
 Maria College of Albany  
 Marion S Whelan School of Nursing of Geneva Gen Hosp  
 Memorial Hospital School of Nursing  
 Mercy College-Main Campus  
 Mohawk Valley Community College-Utica Branch  
 Molloy College  
 Monroe Community College  
 Mount Saint Mary College  
 Nassau Community College  
 Nassau County BOCES School of Practical Nursing  
 Nazareth College of Rochester  
 New York College for Wholistic Health Education  
 and Research  
 New York Institute of Technology-Manhattan Campus  
 New York Institute of Technology-Old Westbury  
 New York University  
 Niagara County Community College

Niagara University  
 North Country Community College  
 Onondaga Community College  
 Orange County Community College  
 Orange-Ulster BOCES School of Practical Nursing  
 Oswego County BOCES  
 Pace University-New York  
 Pace University-Pleasantville Briarcliff  
 Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing  
 Putnam-Westchester BOCES  
 Rensselaer BOCES School of Practical Nursing  
 Roberts Wesleyan College  
 Rochester Educational Opportunity Center-State  
 University of New York Brockport  
 Rockland Community College  
 Rockland County BOCES Practical Nursing  
 Saint Elizabeth College of Nursing  
 Saint Francis School of Practical Nursing  
 Saint John Fisher College  
 Saint Josephs College-Main Campus  
 Saint Josephs College-Suffolk Campus  
 Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing  
 Schuyler-Chemung-Tioga BOCES LPN Program  
 St. Anthony's Health Professions and Nursing Institute  
 St Josephs Hospital Health Center School of Nursing  
 St Lawrence-Lewis County BOCES Nursing Program  
 St Vincent's Catholic Medical Center-Brooklyn  
 and Queens  
 St Vincent's Catholic Medical Center-Staten Island  
 Steuben-Allegany BOCES School of Practical  
 Nursing-Coopers  
 Steuben-Allegany BOCES School of Practical Nursing-  
 Warsaw  
 Steuben-Allegany BOCES School of Practical Nursing-  
 Wildwood  
 Suffolk County Community College-  
 Ammerman Campus  
 Suffolk County Community College-Western Campus  
 Sullivan County Board of Cooperative  
 Educational Services  
 Sullivan County Community College  
 State University of New York at Binghamton  
 State University of New York at Buffalo  
 State University of New York at Stony Brook  
 State University of New York College at Brockport  
 State University of New York College at New Paltz  
 State University of New York College at Plattsburgh

*New York State Educational Institutions*

State University of New York College of Agriculture and  
Technology at Morrisville  
State University of New York College of Technology  
at Alfred  
State University of New York College of Technology  
at Canton  
State University of New York College of Technology  
at Delhi  
State University of New York College of Technology  
at Farmingdale  
State University of New York Health Science Center  
at Brooklyn  
State University of New York Health Science Center  
at Syracuse  
State University of New York Institute of Technology  
at Utica-Rome  
State University of New York Ulster County  
Community College  
State University of New York Westchester  
Community College  
Syracuse Central Technical Vocational Center  
Licensed Practical Nursing Program  
Syracuse University  
Teachers College at Columbia University  
The College Of New Rochelle  
The Sage Colleges-Albany Campus  
The Sage Colleges-Troy Campus  
Tompkins-Cortland Community College  
Trocaire College  
Ulster County BOCES School of Practical Nursing  
University of Rochester  
Utica College of Syracuse University  
Veeb Nassau County School of Practical Nursing  
Wagner College  
Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES  
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES School of Practical Nursing  
Western Suffolk BOCES

*Source: U.S. Department of Education –  
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System  
([www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/](http://www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/)) and the New York State Area  
Health Education Center System Data Resource Center,  
September 2003.*