

Patient Care Technician

INDUSTRY FACTS



What does a patient care technician do?

With the ever increasing demand on the healthcare industry, patient care technicians are a vital part of today's medical workforce.

Under the supervision of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals, a patient care technician (PCT) helps look after sick and injured patients.

Their primary duties include the following:

- Basic patient care like bathing, feeding, and catheter care
- Acquiring, distributing, and administering patient care supplies
- Collecting laboratory specimens
- Ensuring the cleanliness of patient rooms and conducting safety checks
- Monitoring and recording changes in patient health and vital signs
- Performing EKG and phlebotomy procedures

Where do they work?

Patient care technicians have many options available for work location and environment. Most PCTs work in a hospital, home care agency, or a nursing home, while others work in doctors' offices, clinics, or rehabilitation centers. Additional job placement opportunities can be found through specialized training, including dialysis, emergency room, and ICU specialization.



How much do they earn?

Patient care technician salaries can vary greatly depending on location and employer. According to ZipRecruiter, the average national salary as of late 2018 is \$31,500* a year. In some cases, annual salaries can reach as high as \$52,000 but usually range between \$24,000 and \$34,000 per year.

How's the job outlook?

There's never been a better time to start your career as a patient care technician. As the national population continues to age, more and more assistants will be needed to perform routine administrative and clinical duties. The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects employment of PCTs to grow 29% from 2016 to 2026,**, which is much faster than a 7% average growth rate for all other occupations.

"I have truly enjoyed my experience with CareerStep. Their programs allow you to work on your studies on your own time, which is fantastic for busy moms like myself. If I have ever run into problems with anything, all I have to do is text someone from learner support and they are there to help me."

JENNIFER, CAREERSTEP LEARNER

Patient Care Technician

PROGRAM DETAILS

Improve Your Life

When it comes to career training, you'll find a lot of posers out there. Con artists that'll try to impress you with fancy hyperbole. But through all the noise, the distinct sound of success can be heard. Your success. All it takes is a little push. A nudge in the right direction—and your whole life could change. New doors opened. New worlds discovered. And new opportunities explored.

Prepare For A Better Job

Get the training you need without racking up a mountain of debt. Our Patient Care Technician program was created with an end goal in mind: to give you the knowledge you need to get certified and get working fast. To that end, we'll prepare to sit for the National Healthcare Association's CPCT/A (Certified Patient Care Technician/Assistant) exam—1 free voucher included with the program.

Learn Your Way

With online training, you can absorb more knowledge and learn more skills—fast.

- Study on a schedule that fits your life
- Progress at a pace that matches your learning style
- Adjust the time and effort you devote to your coursework each day

Receive Coaching and Guidance

When you train with CareerStep, we back you every step of the way—from sign-up through course completion.

- Learner support
- Technical support
- Career support

Get Certified

We'll prepare you to take nationally recognized exams so you can explore greater opportunities in your area.

- **Patient Care Technician/Assistant (CPCT/A)**
Patient care technicians who are NHA certified (CPCT/A) are often better prepared to tackle the daily challenges of the role than PCTs who are not certified.

Program Outline

Course
Program Orientation: Patient Care Technician
HealthCare Foundational Knowledge and Basic Science
Anatomy and Physiology
General Patient Care
Pharmacology Basics
Infection Control
Externship Readiness Skills
Testing and Laboratory Procedures
Patient Care Coordination and Education
Communication and Customer Service in the Healthcare Office
Phlebotomy
EKG and Cardiovascular
Medical Laws and Ethics
Career Success in Healthcare
Patient Care Technician Final Exam
HIPAA Workforce Training
Initiating Your Externship
Clinical Externship
Program Completion: Patient Care Technician

TOTAL HOURS: 462

362 Coursework, Simulations, and Experiential +100 Clinical Externship