

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 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. However, the national average salary for patient care technicians is \$38,938.*

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 so there's plenty of opportunity to find a rewarding career you love.

*Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. "Healthcare Occupations." Occupational Outlook Handbook. Accessed April 22, 2025

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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

Train affordably without sacrificing quality. This program's comprehensive training was developed by industry professionals with years of experience – specifically designed to help you prepare for the Certified Patient Care Technician/Assistant (CPCT/A), Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT), and Certified EKG Technician (CET) certification exams.

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)**
- **Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT)**
- **Certified EKG Technician (CET)**

Program Outline

Course

Program Orientation: Patient Care Technician

HealthCare Foundational Knowledge and Basic Science

Anatomy and Physiology Essentials

General Patient Care

Caregiver Basics

Pharmacology Basics for Medical Assisting

Infection Control

Externship Readiness Skills

Testing and Laboratory Procedures

Patient Care Coordination and Education

Communication and Customer Service in the Healthcare Office

Phlebotomy

Venipuncture Labs

EKG and Cardiovascular

Medical Laws and Ethics

Career Success in Healthcare

Patient Care Technician Final Exam

Fundamentals of HIPAA

Applying for Your Required Externship

Clinical Externship*

Program Completion: Patient Care Technician

***CareerStep does not guarantee externships.**

A learner's placement in and completion of an externship is solely the learner's responsibility and may be subject to additional requirements, such as a background check and successful completion of a CareerStep course. This is particularly important for learners seeking to complete their externship in Alabama, District of Columbia, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming. Please note that CareerStep will not sign agreements with sites in the above-referenced states or provide evidence of insurance to those sites.