

Registered Nurses (R.N.s) work to promote health, prevent disease, and help patients cope with illness. They are advocates and health educators for patients, families, and communities. When providing direct patient care, they observe, assess, and record symptoms, reactions, and progress; assist physicians during treatments and examinations; administer medications; and assist in convalescence and rehabilitation. R.N.s also develop and manage nursing care plans; instruct patients and their families in proper care. At any given time, a nurse works in a specific area of the hospital, such as the emergency room, the intensive care unit (ICU), the operating room, or a specific floor of the hospital (cardiology or oncology).

Licensed Practical Nurses (L.P.N.s) care for the sick, injured, convalescent, and disabled under the direction of physicians and registered nurses. Most L.P.N.s provide basic bedside care. They take vital signs such as temperature, blood pressure, pulse, and respiration. They also treat bedsores, prepare and give injections and enemas, apply dressings, give alcohol rubs and massages, apply ice packs and hot water bottles, and insert catheters. L.P.N.'s observe patients and report adverse reactions to medications or treatments. They collect samples from patients for testing, perform routine laboratory tests, feed them, and record food and liquid intake and output.

Advanced Practice Nurses—registered nurses with special training—are taking jobs that traditionally went to medical nurses. **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists** (CRNAs), deliver anesthetics to patients in a variety of health-care settings, such as operating rooms, ambulances, and even dentists' offices. **Nurse-midwives** specialize in delivering babies and in women's health issues associated with obstetrics. **Nurse Practitioners** (NPs) work in a wide range of settings, from large hospitals to small clinics to individual practices, administering pediatric care, generally to poorer patients. NPs perform many tasks previously handled only by doctors, such as diagnosing patients. In 49 states NPs also have prescription-writing privileges. **Clinical Nurse Specialists** (CNS), like NPs, can make diagnoses and, in most states, have prescription-writing privileges.

Salary Information:

- Nursing, Associate in Applied Science
\$45,000 Median Salary (Follow-up Study, Monroe Community College Graduates, 2008)
- Registered Nurse
\$65,130 Average Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)
- **Registered Nurse salary for the Rochester, New York area:**
\$57,300 Median Salary Range (Career One Stop, 2008)

[*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location.]

Additional Information:

- National League for Nursing: www.nln.org
- Nursing Center: www.nursingcenter.com

