

Licensed Practical Nurses

Description

Licensed practical nurses provide nursing care usually under the direction of medical practitioners, registered nurses or other health team members. Operating room technicians prepare patients and provide assistance to medical practitioners prior to and during surgery. Licensed practical nurses are employed in hospitals, nursing homes, extended care facilities, rehabilitation centres, doctors' offices, clinics, companies, private homes and community health centres. Operating room technicians are employed in hospitals.

Duties:

- Licensed practical nurses
 - Provide nursing services, within defined scope of practice, to patients based on patient assessment and care planning procedures
 - Perform nursing interventions such as taking vital signs, applying aseptic techniques including sterile dressing, ensuring infection control, monitoring nutritional intake and conducting specimen collection
 - Administer medication and observe and document therapeutic effects
 - Provide pre-operative and post-operative personal and comfort care
 - Monitor established respiratory therapy and intravenous therapy
 - Monitor patients' progress, evaluate and document effectiveness of nursing interventions and collaborate with appropriate members of healthcare team
 - Provide safety and health education to individuals and their families.
- Operating room technicians
 - Prepare patients for surgery by washing, shaving and sterilizing the patients' operative areas
 - Assist in surgery by laying out instruments, setting up equipment, assisting surgical teams with gowns and gloves and passing instruments to surgeons
 - Monitor patients' status during surgery, such as intake, output and loss of blood, and communicate and document any changes
 - Clean and sterilize the operating room and instruments.

Other titles:

- certified nursing assistant (CNA)
- graduate nursing assistant
- licensed nursing assistant
- licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.)
- operating room technician – nursing
- R.N.A. (registered nursing assistant)
- R.P.N. (registered practical nurse)
- surgical nursing assistant
- surgical technician – nursing

(Government of Canada National Occupation Classification)

Skills

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Communication | Patience | Technology | Attention to detail | Able to work under stress |
| | Empathy | Organization | Mental and physical stability | |

Education/Training Requirements

Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

- Most college/university programs in Ontario require an OSSD or Mature Student Status

Post-secondary diploma/degree

- Completion of a vocational, college or other approved program for licensed practical nurses is required

Certification

- Registration with the College of Nurses of Ontario is required
- Completion of a registration examination is required
- Operating room technicians require additional academic training in operating room techniques.

Potential Earnings in Durham Region

The average and median wages and salaries for individuals employed as licensed practical nurses are as follows. Place of Residence (POR) is defined as individuals who reside within the Durham Region. Place of Work (POW) is defined as individuals who are employed within the Durham Region.

| Median Wages and Salaries (POW) | Average Wages and Salaries (POW) | Median Wages and Salaries (POR) | Average Wages and Salaries (POR) |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$52,105 | \$46,166 | \$56,651 | \$53,292 |

Employment Prospects

| Industry (NAICS) | Jobs in Durham Region (POW) | Durham Region Residents Employed (POR) |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| 6220 Hospitals | 265 | 405 |
| 6230 Nursing and residential care facilities | 125 | 160 |

(Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development 2016 data in Durham Workforce Authority's 2017 Sector Report)

Additional Resources

- College of Nurses of Ontario: <https://www.cno.org/>