

## Nurse Aides, Orderlies and Patient Service Associates

### Description

Nurse aides, orderlies and patient service associates assist nurses, hospital staff and physicians in the basic care of patients. They are employed in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted care facilities for the elderly and other health care establishments.

### Duties:

- Answer call signals; supply and empty bed pans; bathe, dress and groom patients; serve meal trays, feed or assist in feeding of patients and assist patients with menu selection
- Take patients' blood pressure, temperature and pulse; report or record fluid intake and output; observe or monitor patients' status and document patient care on charts; administer first aid in emergency situations; collect specimens such as urine, faeces or sputum; administer suppositories, colonic irrigations and enemas and perform other procedures as directed by nursing and hospital staff
- Transport patients by wheelchair or stretcher for treatment or surgery
- Carry messages, reports, requisitions and specimens between departments
- Make beds and maintain patients' rooms
- Maintain inventory of supplies
- May perform maintenance tasks such as assisting with the set-up and maintenance of equipment,

### Other titles:

- Continuing care assistant
- First aid attendant
- Hospital aide
- Nursing attendant
- Patient care aide

(Government of Canada National Occupation Classification)

### Skills



## Education/Training Requirements

### Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD)

- Most college/university programs in Ontario require an OSSD or Mature Student Status
- Some secondary school and on-the-job training can be sufficient

### Post-secondary diploma/degree

- Nursing aide or health care aide college, private institutional program, or a college nursing orderly program and supervised practical training
- Ontario colleges offering relevant programs: Medix College of Healthcare, Westervelt College, National Academy of Health and Business, Trillium College

### Certification

- Completion of specialized courses such as CPR and First Aid
- An appropriate class of driver's license may be required for medical attendants.

## Potential Earnings in Durham Region

The average and median wages and salaries for individuals employed as nurse aides, orderlies and patient service associates 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)
\$32,046	\$30,330	\$32,603	\$31,042

## Employment Prospects

Industry (NAICS)	Jobs in Durham Region (POW)	Durham Region Residents Employed (POR)
6220 Hospitals	260	430
6230 Nursing and residential care facilities	1,780	2,020

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

## Additional Resources

- Durham First Aid Inc.: <https://durhamfirstaid.com/our-courses/>