



# Nurse Practitioner

37

**Job Description:** Nurse practitioners serve as primary and specialty care providers. They treat and care for patients with a broad range of health issues. They often specialize in a treatment area or in working with certain patients.

*Gross Monthly Income:*

**\$5,000**

## Wages:

Average median yearly pay is about 60,000 a year in Utah.

**Schedule:** Set schedule, business hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) no weekends or nights, but on-call (can be called in for emergencies.)



## Advancement:

In some ways, nurse practitioners are at the top of their profession. They may be promoted to jobs such as assistant program director or director. Some may go into the business side of health care. They may take management jobs in ambulatory, acute, and chronic care services. Some work for large health care corporations in areas such as health planning and development, marketing, and quality assurance.

## Education & Experience:

- ◆ Completed High School
- ◆ Bachelor's degree in nursing
- ◆ Graduate from a nurse practitioner degree program (2 years)
- ◆ Be licensed as a registered nurse and be certified as a nurse practitioner

## High

### School Courses:

- ◆ Anatomy & Physiology
- ◆ Computer Applications
- ◆ Health Education
- ◆ Safety and First Aid
- ◆ Safety and First Aid

## Work Conditions:

- ◆ Communicate with others by telephone on a daily basis.
- ◆ Are responsible for the health and safety of others.
- ◆ Are exposed to diseased and infections as well as contaminants.
- ◆ Must be very exact and accurate when performing the job.
- ◆ Make decisions on a daily basis that substantially impact patients and their families.

**Travel:** None

## Job Outlook:



Very Large

## Hours a Week:

**65**

**Leisure Time:**

**Low**

## Knowledge:

- ◆ Medicine & Dentistry
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Biology
- ◆ Sociology & Anthropology
- ◆ Education & Training
- ◆ Chemistry
- ◆ Mathematics

# Nurse Practitioner

37



## Overview

Chances are, you probably have seen a nurse practitioner for a "doctor's" visit. Nurse practitioners are registered nurses who have additional training. They have the knowledge and skills so that they can work one-on-one with a patient. They even prescribe certain medications. It's becoming quite common for nurse practitioners to function as primary care doctors. This means they see patients for a variety of issues as well as general check-ups.

In some areas of the country nurse practitioners treat patients in emergency rooms and hospitals. Most commonly, however, they work in offices and clinics. They specialize in areas such as family medicine, pediatrics, women's health, and geriatrics. Therefore, their work is very similar to a doctor's. Nurse practitioners begin by interviewing patients for their medical history. Then they listen to patients' heart and lungs and discuss any problems. They prescribe some medicines or treatments when needed. They also order X-rays and other tests and interpret their results. In addition, they teach patients about healthier lifestyles and ways to manage chronic conditions. Sometimes they refer patients to doctors and specialists.

Overall, nurse practitioners seek to work with a patient individually. They treat any illnesses or conditions. They also help patients' maintain wellness. They do this by educating patients about becoming or staying healthy.

Nurse practitioners usually work with nurses. They also dictate notes about their interactions with patients, and these notes are later transcribed. They bill insurance for their services as well as Medicare and Medicaid. They often are part of a larger medical practice.

Pathway:

***Health Science***