



Career Information Practical Nurse

Overview

Career Title: Practical Nurse (PN)

Industry/Field: Health Careers

If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding career in health care, then becoming a Practical Nurse could be the ideal profession for you! Practical nursing is a self-regulated profession with a unique body of knowledge, standards of practice, code of ethics, clearly defined competencies, and a societal contract to provide safe, quality, holistic patient care.

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| Date | February 2025 Updated |
| Required Education & Skills | <p>Hard Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to use medical equipment and technology effectively• Understanding of anatomy, physiology, and medical procedures• Understanding of anatomy, physiology, and medical procedures• Accurate recording of patient information and treatment provided• Knowledge of pharmacology and the ability to administer medications safely <p>Soft Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing care with kindness and understanding• Ability to handle physically demanding tasks and long hours• Making rapid, informed decisions in high-pressure situations• Coping with stressful and emotionally challenging situations• Clear and effective verbal and non-verbal communication with patients, families, and healthcare teams• Maintaining ethical standards and professional behavior |
| Job Market & Outlook | <p>Current Demand: There is a significant shortage of nurses, including Practical Nurses, across Canada.</p> <p>Salary Information: These are average national salaries, experience, and geographical location will alter your salary.</p> <p>These figures can fluctuate based on factors such as industry demand, certifications, and regional economic conditions. Alberta's average salary tends to be higher, reflecting the provincial demands and economic conditions.</p> <p>Entry Level: \$49,000.00 per year</p> <p>Median: \$57,000.00 per year</p> <p>Experienced: \$102,000.00+ per year</p> |

Pros & Cons of this Career

Pros:

- One of the most rewarding aspects is the ability to make a significant difference in people's lives
- Every day is different, with new challenges and situations, which keeps the job exciting
- There is a high demand for nurses, ensuring stable employment opportunities
- Practical Nurses earn respectable salaries, with opportunities for higher pay in specialized fields

Cons:

- High Stress
- Requires physical stamina to handle long hours and physically demanding tasks
- Shift work, including nights, weekends, and holidays, can disrupt personal life
- Exposure to traumatic events can lead to emotional and mental health challenges

This information has been compiled using publicly accessible provincial and federal data sources.

