

LICENSED PRACTICAL AND VOCATIONAL NURSES

Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses (known as LPNs or LVNs, depending on the state in which they work) provide basic medical care. They work under the direction of registered nurses and doctors.

DUTIES

Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses typically do the following:

- Monitor patients' health—for example, by checking their blood pressure
- Administer basic nursing care, including changing bandages and inserting catheters
- Provide for the basic comfort of patients, such as helping them bathe or dress
- Discuss health care with patients and listen to their concerns
- Report patients' status to registered nurses and doctors
- Keep records on patients' health

Duties of LPNs and LVNs vary, depending on their work setting. For example, they may teach family members how to care for a relative; help to deliver, care for, and feed infants; collect samples for testing and do routine laboratory tests; or feed patients who need help eating.

Because medical care is regulated, LPNs and LVNs may be limited to doing certain tasks, depending on their state. In some states, for example, LPNs with proper training can give medication or start intravenous (IV) drips, while in other states they cannot. State regulations govern the extent to which LPNs and LVNs must be directly supervised; for example, an LPN may provide certain forms of care only with instructions from a registered nurse.

Experienced licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses oversee and direct other LPNs or LVNs and unlicensed medical staff.



SALARY INFORMATION

| Location | 2018 | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 10% | 25% | Median | 75% | 90% |
| California | \$43,030 | \$50,660 | \$59,210 | \$69,170 | \$80,020 |

*Pay period based on yearly amount.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

6,450

Stable growth rate is estimated to be

17%

estimated annual job openings

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Nursing Assistants ☀
- Registered Nurses ☀
- Nurse Practitioners ☀
- Home Health Aides ☀
- Critical Care Nurses ☀
- Occupational Therapists ☀
- Rehabilitation Counselors ☀
- Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses ☀
- Acute Care Nurses ☀
- Informatics Nurse Specialists ☀

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE MAJORS

Preparation for Allied Health Programs | Nursing – Registered Nurse
Surgical Technology | Vocational Nursing – LVN | Central Service Technology
Certified Nursing Assistant – CNA | Operating Room Nurse