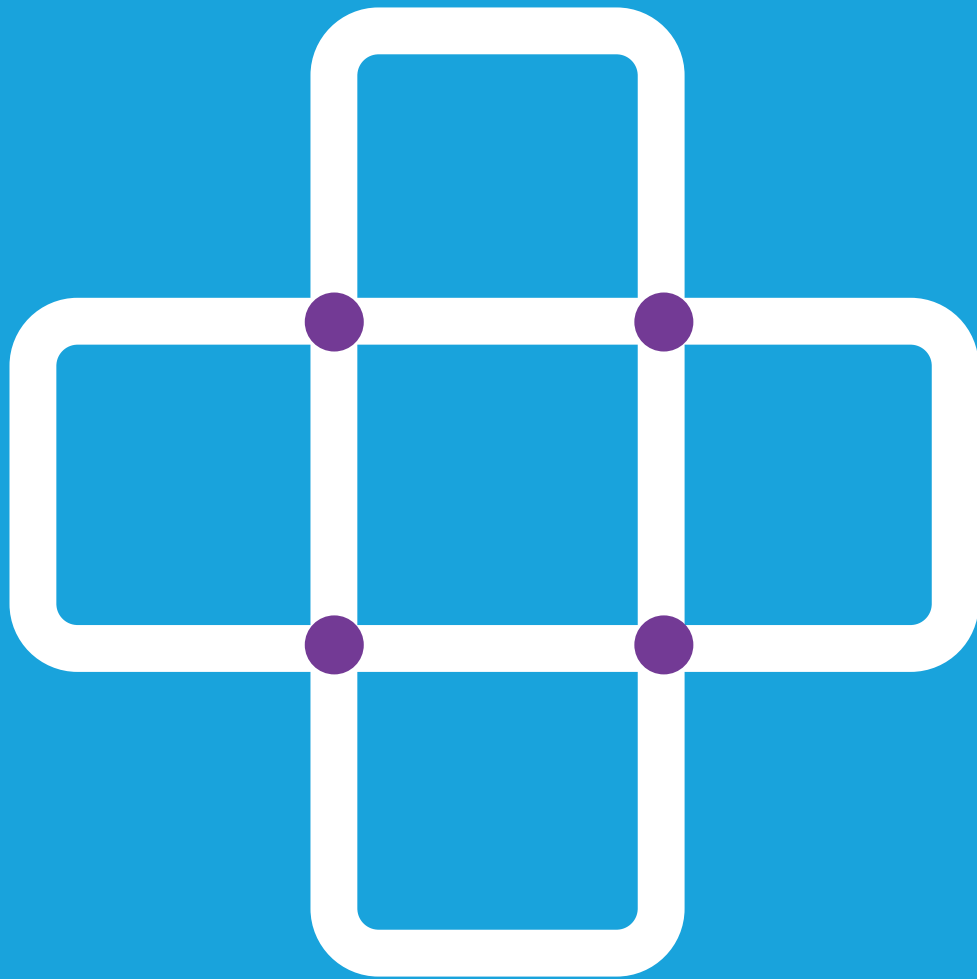


Health Care Providers Career Guide

A guide for physician assistants, nurse practitioners.



Finding Your Way to a Career: Health Care Providers

Health care providers diagnose and directly treat patients with acute and chronic health conditions. These positions require extensive training, advanced educational degrees, and federal licensing. Health care providers have the authority to order and perform diagnostic tests and can prescribe appropriate medication to patients. You can encounter health care providers in almost all types of medical settings, including hospitals, outpatient medical offices, and therapy offices.

How to use this document to learn more.

As one of the Top 100 Hot Jobs for 2022, health care provider is a promising occupation for job-seekers in West Michigan. To find out if this is the right career choice, use this Career Map to examine:

- Who might enjoy this kind of work.
- Qualifications needed in this career field.
- Growth potential and levels of pay.
- Valuable skills for this type of work.
- Common tools and technology used in this work.
- Occupations, responsibilities, and other job titles.

This information is drawn from national data and insights from West Michigan employers. It is meant as a starting point for job seekers and career coaches to work together in the exploration of meaningful and fulfilling careers.



Exploring Occupations as a Health Care Provider

Health care providers are directly responsible for safe and effective patient care in health care organizations. As a health care provider, you might order or analyze test data or images to inform diagnosis or treatment, diagnose medical conditions, or develop medical treatment plans. You might also supervise patient care personnel or advise patients on the effects of health conditions or treatments.

The Path to Success

Who might enjoy this type of work?

People who enjoy working in the health care providers field tend to enjoy:

- Working with, communicating with, and teaching people.
- Helping or providing service to others.
- Mental problem solving.
- Working with ideas and using cognitive (thinking) skills.
- Practical, hands-on problem solving.
- Working with real world materials like wood, tools, and machinery.

People who do well in this work generally perform well in such areas as:

- Responsibility
- Teamwork
- Adaptability
- Achievement
- Decisiveness

Qualifications needed in this career field.

Most people in a health care provider role have a master's or doctoral degree and license.

Growth potential.

In the West Michigan counties of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa, there were 1,523 health care provider jobs in 2020. That number is projected to grow by at least 20% to 1,759 by 2025.

Valuable skills for this type of work.

Tasks and functions performed by health care providers include:

- Assisting and caring for others.
- Getting information.
- Documenting/recording information.
- Updating and using relevant knowledge.
- Making decisions and solving problems.

Common tools and technology used in this work.

Tools: chemistry analyzers, anesthesia kits, surgical scalpels, defibrillators

Technology: medical health information software, diagnostic and procedural coding software, informational retrieval or search software

Mapping a Career

Physician Assistants
Nurse Practitioners

Medical Records Specialists
\$16.34 - \$24.31

Medical Assistant
\$14.81 - \$18.89

Phlebotomist
\$14.52 - \$18.75

Paramedics
\$11.92 - \$18.91

Emergency Medical Technicians
\$11.92 - \$18.91

Dental Assistants
\$17.50 - \$ 26.33

Pharmacy Technicians
\$13.59 - \$ 18.35

Nursing Assistant
\$12.98 - \$15.95

Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
\$22.63 - \$32.34

Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists
\$14.68 - \$29.50

Nurse Practitioners
\$45.26 - \$59.98

Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
\$21.10 - \$25.64

Registered Nurses
\$28.96 - \$38.02

Physician Assistants
\$45.58 - \$59.70

Medical and Health Services Managers
\$33.46 - \$56.18

Wage ranges represent 25th - 75th percentile.
Timeframes represent the typical education and experience combined.
See page 6 for detailed description of occupations.

LESS THAN 2 YEARS

2-4 YEARS

5-9 YEARS

10+ YEARS

Health Care Providers: A Field Guide

Occupations, responsibilities and other job titles.

Physician Assistants

Provide health care services typically performed by a physician, under the supervision of a physician. Conduct complete physicals, provide treatment, and counsel patients. May, in some cases, prescribe medication. Must graduate from an accredited educational program for physician assistants.

Examples of locally used job titles: certified physician assistant (PA-C), clinical physician assistant, family practice physician assistant, general surgery physician assistant, orthopedic physician assistant, physician assistant certified (PAC), physician extender, physician's assistant, surgical physician assistant

Nurse Practitioners

Diagnose and treat acute, episodic, or chronic illness, independently or as part of a health care team. May focus on health promotion and disease prevention. May order, perform, or interpret diagnostic tests such as lab work and x rays. May prescribe medication. Must be registered nurses who have specialized graduate education.

Examples of locally used job titles: acute care nurse practitioner, adult nurse practitioner, advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), family nurse practitioner (FNP), family practice certified advanced registered nurse practitioner, gastroenterology nurse practitioner, nurse practitioner (NP), nurse practitioner, adult, pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP), women's health care nurse practitioner



West Michigan Works! is part of the statewide Michigan Works! system and the workforce development agency in West Michigan. We serve the employers and job seekers of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa counties.

We partner with employers, educators, economic developers and community organizations to create a qualified workforce that meets our region's current and future talent needs and fuels our shared economic future.

Learn more at: <https://www.westmiworks.org/>



CareerPoint helps students and job seekers find their place in the world of work by matching interests and abilities with training, support, and meaningful and rewarding careers.

By providing training and tools, CareerPoint supports the workforce professionals who help people navigate the West Michigan job market.

CareerPoint promotes evidence-based coaching to help students and job seekers discover and follow pathways to rewarding careers. This model follows seven steps to each participant's success.

Learn more at: <https://talnetcareerpoint.org/>