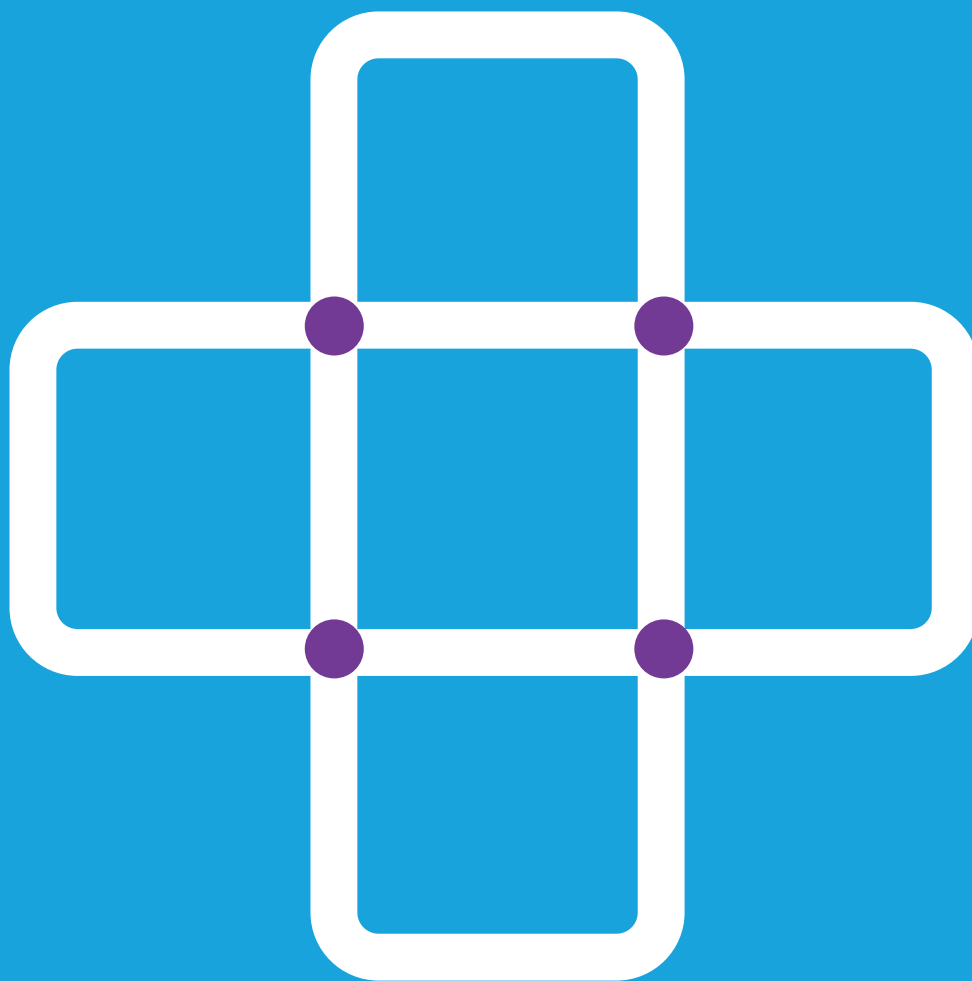


# Patient Caregiving Career Guide

A guide for registered nurses, dental hygienists, licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses.



# Finding Your Way to a Career: Patient Caregiving

Patient caregivers fill a wide variety of roles that are essential to the successful care of patients. These individuals assess patient needs, administer care, and advise patients on health maintenance while working closely under the supervision of a medical provider. You can encounter supervised patient caregivers in almost all types of medical settings, including hospitals, outpatient medical offices, and dental offices.

## How to use this document to learn more.

As one of the Top 100 Hot Jobs for 2022, supervised patient caregivers are promising occupations 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 in Patient Caregiving

Patient caregivers are vital to the success of health care organizations. As a supervised patient caregiver, you might examine patients to assess general physical condition, design public or employee health programs, or prepare medical supplies and equipment for use. You may also explain medical procedures and test results to patients or family members or inform medical professionals regarding patient conditions and care.

# The Path to Success

## Who might enjoy this type of work?

People who enjoy working in the supervised patient caregivers field tend to enjoy:

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

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.

Nationally, most people in supervised patient caregiver roles require a college degree, either a bachelor's or associate degree. Additional licensing is required.

Sample certifications include:

**Registered Nurses Credential:** basic life support (BLS), advanced cardiac life support (ACLS)

**Dental Hygienists Credential:** radiology certification, registered dental hygienist (RDH), licensed dental hygienist (LDH)

**Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses Credential:** basic life support (BLS), advanced cardiac life support (ACLS)

## Growth potential and levels of pay.

In the West Michigan counties of Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon and Ottawa, there were 19,046 supervised patient caregiver jobs in 2020. That number is projected to grow by at least 7% to 20,412 by 2025.

## Valuable skills for this type of work.

Tasks and functions performed by a supervised patient caregivers include:

- Assisting and caring for others.
- Documenting/recording information.
- Getting information.
- Updating and using relevant knowledge.
- Communicating with supervisors, peers, or subordinates.

## Common tools and technology used in this work.

Tools: hypodermic needles, blood pressure cuffs, oxygen tanks, reflex hammers

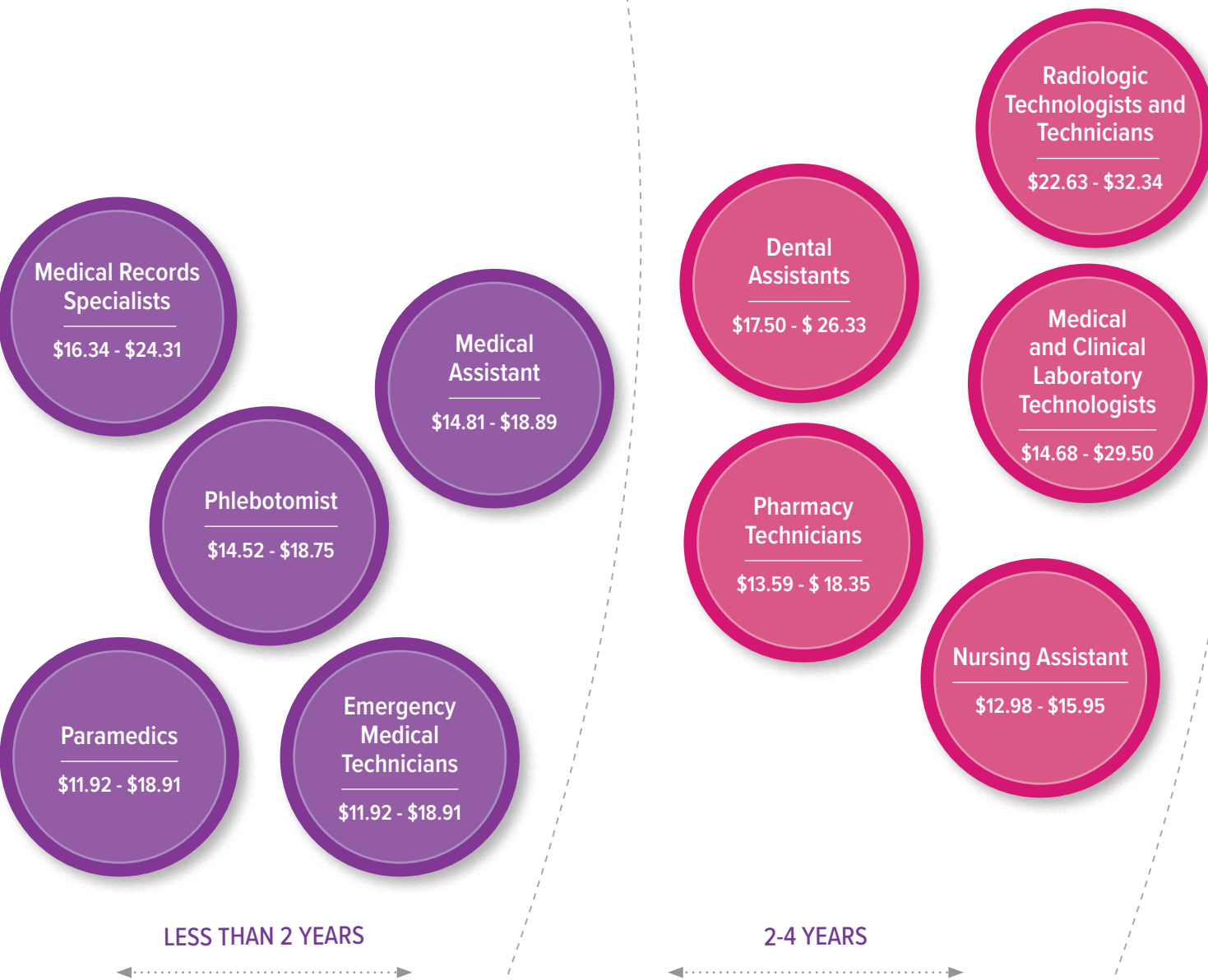
Technology: medical health information software, diagnostic and procedural coding software, informational retrieval or search software

# Mapping a Career:

Registered Nurses

Dental Hygienists

Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses



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

# Patient Caregiving: A Field Guide

## Occupations, responsibilities and other job titles.

### Registered Nurses

Assess patient health problems and needs, develop and implement nursing care plans, and maintain medical records. Administer nursing care to ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled patients. May advise patients on health maintenance and disease prevention or provide case management. Licensing or registration required.

**Examples of locally used job titles:** certified operating room nurse (CNOR), charge nurse, emergency department registered nurse

### Dental Hygienists

Administer oral hygiene care to patients. Assess patient oral hygiene problems or needs and maintain health records. Advise patients on oral health maintenance and disease prevention. May provide advanced care such as providing fluoride treatment or administering topical anesthesia.

**Examples of locally used job titles:** dental hygienist, hygienist, licensed dental hygienist, pediatric dental hygienist

### Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

Care for ill, injured, or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. May work under the supervision of a registered nurse. Licensing required.

**Examples of locally used job titles:** charge nurse, clinic licensed practical nurse (clinic LPN), clinic nurse



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/>