

My Career in Nursing

Auxiliary Studies



With a *Certificate in Nursing Auxiliary Studies*, graduates may have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Nursing Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Orderly
- Home Health Aide

NB: Although the job titles may vary, some of the tasks executed are very similar from one title to another and hence combined.

Careers in Nursing Auxiliary Studies

The job descriptions and job specifications for these careers are as follows:

Career Overview

Your roles are to help the registered nurses and doctors in their day to day duties. Auxiliary nurses may also have to do some administrative tasks at the hospital or in a doctor's office. Many may work in retirement homes or private homes assisting the elderly, sick or disabled with health and day-to-day activities.

Typical Duties:

- Make beds, and help move patients in their beds to be more comfortable.
- Serve meals and assist some patients with eating meals.
- Help patients bathe, shower, wash or dress themselves.
- Change incontinence pads, fetch and empty bedpans, remove soiled linen, or accompany patients to the toilet.
- Turn patients who are confined to bed to avoid pressure sores.
- Talk to patients to help them feel less anxious.
- Help patients to move around if they find it difficult.
- Make sure the ward or patients' homes are tidy.
- Keep supplies and equipment in order.

Work Environment

You may work in a hospital, retirement home, doctor's office or residential home. You must be able to do heavy lifting. The working hours will vary depending on your job, you will work on a shift system and may be asked to work weekends, nights and bank holidays.

Qualifications and Licenses

When you start to work you will receive on-the-job training which will include working closely with experienced colleagues. You are however required to acquire further qualifications such as a Certificate in Nursing Auxiliary Studies from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic, certification through City and Guild or C/NVQs certification.

Essential Qualities and Skills

- ❖ Ability to work efficiently and keep calm, under pressure
- ❖ High standard of personal hygiene
- ❖ Awareness of health and safety
- ❖ Communication skills and the ability to follow instructions
- ❖ Willingness to work flexible and long hours in a stressful environment
- ❖ Ability to deal with suffering, distress and sometimes death
- ❖ Ability to clean up mess (e.g. blood, vomit, urine and excrement).
- ❖ Respectful approach to clients
- ❖ Patience and a sense of humor
- ❖ Reliability and flexibility
- ❖ Team working skills and the ability to use your own initiative
- ❖ Genuine desire to help people
- ❖ Ability to relate to people from a wide variety of backgrounds

References

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