Licensed Practical Nurse

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) provide direct patient care, working with the health care team to meet the needs of the whole person—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. They give routine nursing care to the ill, injured, handicapped and recovering patient, and provide health teaching to clients in many settings. They often assist registered nurses in more complex, non-routine care. Typical duties include taking vital signs, administering prescribed medications, giving injections, preparing patients for medical examinations and surgical procedures, and recording information in the patient’s medical record.

Licensed practical nurses can specialize in areas such as pediatrics, obstetrics (pregnancy and childbirth), and gerontology (elder care). With additional training, employment in the operating room is also possible. Long-term care settings are common employment sites for LPNs, and opportunities to work in home health are increasing. LPNs are required to practice under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician.

Where do they work?

In rural Alaska, licensed practical nurses have a variety of employment opportunities. As in urban settings, they find employment anywhere that physicians and registered nurses work. Examples include clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation units, and nursing homes.

Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with coursework in English, science, and math.
- Completion of a 11 to 18-month licensed practical nurse course in a vocational school, college, or university.
- Successful completion of the NCLEX-PN examination for licensure.

Hourly Wage Range:

$20.05-$32.72 (Mean $26.16)  
*based on 2016 Alaska DOL data

Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

Academic Programs in Alaska

Both AVTEC and the University of Alaska Anchorage have temporarily suspended their Practical Nursing programs. We are not aware of any other LPN programs in Alaska at this time.

National Contact:

The National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service (NAPNES)  
Phone: (703) 933-1003  
Website: http://www.napnes.org/

National Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses (NFLPN)  
Toll free: (800) 948-2511  
Email: NFLPN@caphill.com  
Website: http://www.nflpn.org/index.html

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