



Job Situation

Hospital. Teamwork. Can be hectic.
Medical technologies. Shiftwork.
Reporting to Head nurse. Flexible hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

35

Overtime

Monthly Salary

\$2,800

Student Loan – Owing

\$22,000

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$300

Duties

Assist doctors and nurses. Clean rooms and equipment. Run errands. Maintain supplies. basic patient care.

Prospects

With more training, medical professions.
Self-employment in home care.

Job Title

Orderly

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

3413

Job Description

The orderly is the foot soldier in the everyday operations of a hospital, and while some might see it as a menial position, the role is essential to providing good health care. It is also an ideal observation post for someone who wants to understand the workings of a hospital and learn the basics of medicine in a real-life situation. At the constant beck and call of patients and staff, the orderly is employed in every department from admissions to the morgue.

After basic training in patient-care techniques, you are often the first person to respond to a patient's call signal. Helping patients with bathing, grooming, dressing and meals, you take some strain off the busy medical teams. You might be trained in massage, or assist and supervise patients' exercise routines. Lifting, moving and transporting patients is also your job. Experienced orderlies are trained to take blood pressure, pulse, and temperature readings, collect samples, and prepare patients for surgery. It can be a long day but you never tire of helping people out.

Dealing with sick and frightened people takes kindness, patience and good interpersonal skills. You can make a great contribution to a patient's peace of mind and improve their chance for recovery. Excellent teamworking skills are required as medical professionals have very distinct job descriptions but rely heavily on each other, especially in crisis. Communications are also very important as written instructions must be followed to the letter and information relayed to the appropriate departments.

A hospital is a busy, hectic environment, sometimes presenting very dramatic and stressful situations. You have to keep your emotions a bit detached in order to do what you must, which is focus on the problem at hand. For a person with mental and physical stamina, this job offers the opportunity to help save lives and learn about the healthcare field on the front lines.