



Job Situation

Geriatrics ward in busy hospital. Teamwork. Dealing with patients and families. Medical technology. Computers, phones. Can be hectic, stressful. Reporting to Head nurses. Rotating shifts.

Weekly Hours of Work

40

Overtime

Monthly Salary

\$4,275

Student Loan – Owing

\$20,000

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$290

Duties

Monitor patients. Administer medications and treatments. Assist in minor surgery. Counsel patients and families. Consult with doctors and co-workers. Maintain files and records. Supervise staff.

Prospects

Nursing in non-hospital settings. Nurse Practitioner. Head nurse. Resource Person. Self-employed.

Job Title

Gerontology Nurse

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

3152

Job Description

On a day shift, you start work at 6:30 a.m. by chatting with the night shift nurses, who bring you up-to-date on the events of the night. You check the charts. Healthcare is teamwork and you all try hard to establish good working relationships. Sometimes a day starts with great news when a patient has made a strong recovery. Sometimes the news is sad, but you can handle it. You find that working with elderly people has made you more philosophical, as if some of their wisdom was rubbing off on you.

You make your first quick rounds while your patients are finishing their breakfasts, reading their charts and listening carefully to what they have to say. You observe them closely, too, because sometimes they don't want to "bother you" by reporting some minor symptom that could be important. By the time you get back to the nursing station you have the detailed information you need to report to the doctors when they come to make their rounds. You make some notes and assign morning duties to volunteers, orderlies and nursing assistants.

For the rest of your day you will be multi-tasking: answering patients' and families' needs, assisting doctors, supervising other staff, maintaining records and files and responding to emergencies. The best part is actually working with the patients. You treat their ills and give them that special extra that makes nurses so effective as healers—your interest, your genuine concern, and your kindness. You explain medical terms and answer questions, and there may even be time to listen to an old master storyteller spin a yarn.

Of course sometimes there are difficult days when things go wrong and it's hard to keep your emotional balance. The work can be very physical, and shift changes can disrupt your sleep patterns and your family life. You have learned that taking good care of yourself is important. You make time for yoga and music to relieve stress and maintain your mental and physical resiliency. r