

Personal Care Attendants

Personal care attendants play a crucial role in patient care within the healthcare system, assisting nursing staff and physicians with basic patient care and working in a number of environments including hospitals, assisted living facilities and private homes.

The job requirements and responsibilities of a PCA vary greatly depending on the setting however, they may include the following tasks:

- Answering call signals; supplying and emptying bed pans; bathing, dressing and grooming patients; serving meal trays, feeding or assisting in feeding of patients and assisting patients with menu selection; lifting, turning or massaging patients; shaving patients prior to operations; supervising patients' exercise routines, setting up and providing leisure activities for patients, and accompanying patients on outside recreational activities; and performing other duties related to patient care
- Taking patients' blood pressure, temperature and pulse; reporting or recording fluid intake and output; observing or monitoring patients' status and documenting patient care on charts; collecting specimens; administering suppositories, colonic irrigations and enemas and perform other procedures as directed by nursing and hospital staff
- Transporting patients by wheelchair or stretcher for treatment or surgery
- Carrying messages, reports, requisitions and specimens from one department to another
- Making beds and maintaining patients' rooms
- Maintaining inventory of supplies
- Performing maintenance tasks such as assisting with the set-up and maintenance of traction equipment, cleaning or sterilizing equipment, maintaining and repairing equipment, and assembling, setting-up and operating job-related equipment*

*This list of duties is adapted from those provided by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, a division of the Government of Canada (2013).

<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/English/NOC/2011/QuickSearch.aspx?val65=3413>

For more information, visit the website listed below:

National Occupation Classification 2013 -

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