

Study Guide: Different Types of Nurses

Overview:

There are many different types of nurses in the healthcare industry. Some include:

- Registered Nurse (RN)
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Oncology Nurse
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
- Clinical Nurse Specialist

(Note: These are not all the types of nurses, only some.)

Registered Nurse

A Registered Nurse, also known as an RN, is the most common type of nurse in the healthcare industry.

Responsibilities

- Deliver medical attention to patients
- Set up plans for nursing care
- Assess patients
- Assist in diagnostic testing

How to Become One?

You need to have 1 of the following:

- An Associate Degree in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Where They Work:

- Hospitals
- Doctors' Offices
- Nursing Homes
- Prisons
- Long-term care facilities
- Homes

Median Salary: \$86,070

Nurse Practitioner

A Nurse Practitioner, also known as an NP, is more advanced than a registered nurse.

Responsibilities:

- Examine patients
- Diagnose health problems
- Analyze test results
- Administer medicine

How to Become One?

You need to have 1 of the following:

- An Associate Degree in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Then:

- Earn a Master's Degree in a specialty role (MSN)

Where They Work:

- Hospitals
- Physicians' Offices
- Clinics

Median Salary: \$129,480

Clinical Nurse Specialist

A Clinical Nurse Specialist is an advanced practice registered nurse (RN) with extra training to provide clinical expertise to patients.

Responsibilities:

- Improve patient care plans
- Diagnose patients
- Prescribe medicine
- Treat patients

How to Become One:

You need to have 1 of the following:

- An Associate Degree in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Then:

- Earn a Master's Degrees in a specialty role (MSN)

Where They Work:

- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Prisons
- Clinics

Median Salary: \$127,226

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

A Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist is an advanced practice registered nurse who can give patients anesthesia and other pain management medications such as epidurals.

Responsibilities:

- Give pain management medications to patients

How to Become One:

You need to have 1 of the following:

- An Associate Degree in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Then:

- Earn a Doctoral Degree in Nursing

Where They Work:

- Hospitals
- Doctors' Clinics
- With other doctors like: anesthesiologists and surgeons

Oncology Nurse

An Oncology Nurse is a nurse who is a specialized medical worker who cares for cancer patients' or those who are at risk of developing this disease.

Responsibilities:

- Care for patients who are undergoing treatment
- Administer medicine
- Closely monitor patients condition

How to Become One:

You need to have 1 of the following:

- An Associate Degree in Nursing
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Where They Work:

- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Cancer Centers

Median Salary: \$119,810

References

“Types of Nurses: Roles and Career Paths,” MCPHS University,
<https://www.mcphs.edu/admission-and-aid/blog/types-of-nurses-roles-and-career-paths>, accessed September 16, 2025.