

Health Care Apprenticeable Occupations in Alaska



Behavioral Health Technician

A behavioral health technician helps doctors and nurses with the treatment of patients who have various behavioral problems, such as substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, mental instability and physical and emotional abuse. These professionals often work in hospitals, shelters, and mental health facilities.

Central Sterile Processing Technician

The central sterile processing technician plays a vital role in maintaining the cleanliness, functionality and inventory of health care instrumentation and equipment. Their work ensures that patients avoid infections and that doctors, nurses and allied health professionals are able to access the instrumentation and equipment they need immediately. As a central sterile processing technician, you are responsible for sterilizing instrumentation and equipment through a series of critical steps. You will have a strong understanding of microbiology and infection control, the principles and practices of sterile processing and decontamination procedures.

Certified Nursing Assistant

A certified nursing assistant, or CNA, helps patients or clients with healthcare needs under the supervision of a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) provide intimate, hands-on healthcare to patients in medical settings, helping with bathing, dressing and the basic activities of life. A day in the life of a CNA might also include: Turning or repositioning bedridden patients in long term care facilities, measuring patient vital signs, administering medications or treatments, as directed by a physician or nurse; clean and sanitize patient rooms, bathrooms, examination rooms, or other patient areas; document or otherwise report observations of patient behavior, complaints, or physical symptoms to nurses and apply clean dressings, slings, stockings, or support bandages, under direction of nurse or physician.

Community Health Worker

Community health workers (CHWs) are frontline public health workers who have a close understanding of the community they serve. This trusting relationship enables them to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. Community health workers also build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

Dental Assistant

Dental assistants perform many tasks, ranging from patient care and taking x rays to recordkeeping and scheduling appointments. Their duties vary by the dentists' offices where

they work. They work under the supervision of a dentist and may perform activities such as ensuring that patients are comfortable in the dental chair, preparing patients and the work area for treatments and procedures, sterilizing dental instruments, handing instruments to the dentist during procedures, keeping patients' mouths dry by using suction hoses and other equipment, instructing patients in proper oral hygiene, and processing x rays and completing lab tasks. They may also keep records of dental treatments, schedule patient appointments, and work with patients on billing and payment.

Dispensing Optician

Dispensing opticians help fit eyeglasses and contact lenses, following prescriptions from ophthalmologists and optometrists. Based on the prescription, they measure the customer's eyes and face, help them choose eyeglasses and frames based on their vision needs, create work orders for ophthalmic labs, adjust glasses for good fit, repair or replace broken frames, educate customers about eyewear, and perform business tasks such as maintaining sales records, keeping track of customers' prescriptions, and ordering and maintaining inventory.

Home Health Aide

Home health aides typically do the following: Assist clients in their daily personal tasks, such as bathing or dressing. Provide basic health-related services according to a client's needs, Home health aides (HHAs) assist patients with completing important personal tasks such as dressing, bathing and a variety of hygiene needs. Tasks may include written documentation of patient care performed, patient's condition, or problems to be reported to a supervising health care professional. Additional aspects of this position may include assisting clients to remain safe in their own homes by providing a higher level of assistance with minor cleaning and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) such as cooking, light housekeeping, and laundry.

Medical Assistant

A medical assistant is an allied health professional that supports the work of physicians and other health professionals, usually in a clinic setting. They perform routine tasks and procedures such as measuring patients' vital signs, administering medications and injections, recording information in medical recordkeeping systems, preparing and handling medical instruments and supplies, and collecting and preparing specimens of bodily fluids and tissues for laboratory testing.

Medical Coder/Billing and Coding Specialist

Medical coders/billers may work in hospitals, doctors' offices, surgery centers, nursing homes, dental offices, mental health facilities, home healthcare agencies, or even in insurance companies. Typical duties include: gather/review essential patient information; verify required documentation before patient information is released; prevent fraud/abuse by auditing billing; support coding and billing process; assign codes for diagnoses and procedures; submit claims for reimbursement; and coach healthcare providers to achieve optimal reimbursement.

Medical Office Assistant

Administrative medical assistants perform clerical work in doctors' and hospital offices. It is their responsibility to keep all patient files organized and to maintain the front office. They file medical records and handle administrative duties, such as answering phones and scheduling appointments.

Surgical Technologist/Operating Room Technologist

Surgical or Operating Room Technologists are members of operating room teams, which include the surgeon(s), anesthesiologist and circulating nurse. Surgical technologists work under the delegatory authority and supervision of the surgeon, unless prohibited by state law or hospital policy. You may be responsible for preparing the operating room, making sure all necessary supplies and surgical tools are sterile and ready, keeping track of all items used during surgery, providing other assistance during the operation, delivering the patient to recovery, cleaning up the operating room after surgery. You will have a thorough understanding of surgical procedures and the technical skills needed in an operating room.

Veterinary Technician

Veterinary technologists and technicians perform medical tests under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian to assist in diagnosing and treating the injuries and illnesses of animals. Typical duties may include the following: observe the behavior and condition of animals; provide nursing care or emergency first aid to recovering or injured animals; bathe animals, clip nails or claws, and brush or cut animals' hair; restrain animals during exams or procedures; administer anesthesia to animals, and monitor their responses; collect laboratory samples, such as blood, urine, or tissue, for testing; perform laboratory tests, such as urinalyses and blood counts; take and develop x-rays; prepare animals and instruments for surgery; administer medications, vaccines, and treatments prescribed by a veterinarian; and collect and record patients' case histories.