Can Men be Nurses? YES!

“If you are a caring, people person who enjoys making a difference in people’s lives everyday, being a Licensed Practical Nurse might be just right up your alley. This field is demanding more male staffing, and the wages and career advancements are high! It’s an all-around rewarding career.” —Chris Frix, LPN, RN

Preparation

To work as a licensed practical nurse, you must:

- have a high school diploma or GED;
- graduate from a practical nursing program;
- complete supervised clinical work experience;
- pass a national exam;
- pass a state licensing exam;
- have good interpersonal skills; and
- be able to work as part of a team.

Regardless of Gender Nurses need to:

- Take patients’ vital signs, such as pulse and blood pressure.
- Give basic care and treatments, such as taking temperature and dressing wounds, under the direction of doctors or registered nurses.
- Answer patients’ calls, observe them, and report negative reactions to medication.
- Collect blood and other samples for testing.
- Perform routine laboratory tests.
- Prepare patients for exams and tests. Explain all procedures to them.
- Feed patients and record food and liquid intake and output.
- Assist patients with personal care, such as bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene.
- Set up treatment rooms and necessary equipment.
- Work with doctors, nurses, and other medical staff to oversee patient progress.
- May administer prescribed medications or start intravenous (IV) fluids.
- May help deliver, care for, and feed infants.
- May supervise nursing assistants and aides.
- May help evaluate patients’ residential needs and develop care plans.
- Keep records, and perform other clerical tasks.
- May prepare meals and teach family members simple nursing tasks.
- Record important information about patients in their charts.

Idaho Wages

Hourly Range $12.58 to $21.66
Median Wage $ 16.58

Idaho Employment

3133 jobs— Very Large occupation
21.4%—annual growth
135—annual jobs open
Nationally, men make up 5.8% of the labor force.

Job Outlook

Fast growth is also expected in home health care services. This is in response to two factors. One, the number of older people with disabilities is growing. Two, people prefer to be cared for in their own homes. In addition, technological advances will make it possible to bring more complex treatments into the home. This is true for doctors’ offices and clinics as well, where more complicated procedures can now be performed. As a result, employment of LPNs is expected to grow quickly in doctors’ offices, clinics, and emergency medical centers.

College of Southern Idaho
Center for New Directions
Non Traditional Occupations Program—732-6688.
Licensed Practical Nurse Program
Contact Dr. Pam Holloway—732-6720

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