



A Guide to Jobs in Home Care and Home Healthcare

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Difference Between Home Care and Home Healthcare?

Home care describes personal care and support services provided to an individual in their home. Often referred to as senior care, it provides help with the activities of daily living as well as companionship to those who need support to maintain their independence at home.

Home healthcare describes medical-based care that is provided in a patient's home. In general, the goal of home healthcare is to help a patient recover from an illness or injury or to provide in-home medical oversight and ongoing care for patients with complex, chronic medical conditions.

Who are the users of home care and home healthcare services?

While seniors are the primary users of home care services, it is not limited to this age group. Anyone who is in need of extra support at home can benefit from these services. It may include assistance with:

- Bathing, dressing and grooming
- Meal preparation
- Light housekeeping
- Transportation
- Companionship

Home healthcare provides quality care in a home setting to patients of all ages and serves a variety of needs, conditions and illnesses such as:

- Acute illnesses like COVID-19, infections, pneumonia and flu
- Alzheimer's, dementia and confusion
- Chronic disease management for diabetes, heart failure, COPD and more
- Complex medical care for children
- Hospice care for patients at end of life
- Joint and hip replacement
- Mental health and depression
- Palliative care for pain and symptom management
- Physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy
- Postoperative care
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- Ventilator care
- Wound care

How Does Home Healthcare Benefit Patients?

Home is quickly becoming the center of our healthcare system. From one-on-one patient care and improved health outcomes to reduced hospital readmission rates, there are so many benefits to be gained from utilizing home healthcare services. The expertise home healthcare delivers to a patient's full continuum of care is unrivaled. Moreover, the benefits that home healthcare delivers to patients are extensive.

A few reasons more physicians and medical professionals are recommending home health services to their patients include:

- Home healthcare is usually less expensive, more convenient and just as effective as the care you get in a hospital or skilled nursing facility.
- Home healthcare offers a cost-effective, higher quality of care to the individuals who receive it.
- Nearly all of the technology and clinical excellence of the hospital is available at home through home healthcare.
- Home healthcare offers individuals the one-on-one, quality care they need while they remain in their home, the place they want to be.
- Home healthcare lowers readmission rates through patient education, early detection of issues and ensuring care plans are followed.



Home Care and Home Healthcare Services Offered

Interim HealthCare offers the following home care and home healthcare services to clients and patients:

Personal Care & Support Services (PCSS)

Often called non-medical or private duty, in-home personal care and support services are often the kind of help senior adults need in order to avoid moving out of their homes and into assisted living facilities (ALF).

Adult and Pediatric Nursing Services in the Home

The most common type of home healthcare is nursing services that are provided in a patient's home. Depending on the patient's needs, their doctor may recommend in-home nursing care for any of the following medical services:

- Wound dressing
- Ostomy care
- Intravenous (IV) therapy
- Medication management and/or injections
- Monitoring the general health of the patient
- Pain and symptom management
- Management of urinary catheters, drains, tubes and bags
- Ventilator care

Interim HealthCare offers in-home nursing care provided by Registered Nurses (RNs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), or Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) in accordance with state law. [Read more](#)

Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy

For patients recovering from an illness or injury that impacted their physical capabilities, therapy may be a critical part of their home healthcare plan. To help patients regain their independence, strength, form and function, Interim HealthCare offers in-home physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy services. [Read more](#)

Hospice Care and Bereavement Services

Interim HealthCare provides a full range of hospice services to support the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of patients who are at the end of life. Bereavement care and grief support services are also available for family members who are caring for our patients. [Read more](#)



Career Opportunities

The way patients and medical professionals view home care and home healthcare has shifted significantly since the onset of the pandemic. The strains of the pandemic tugged at the hearts of people in different ways and changed the way many think about home-based care. For patients, it opened the door to a new location for care. For nurses, CNAs, therapists and aides, it opened their minds to a new career path where they can provide one-on-one care in a client or patient's home and [make a difference every day](#).

Home Care and Home Healthcare Careers are in High Demand

As baby boomers age, the demand for healthcare workers to care for them will greatly increase. Home health and personal care aide job openings are projected to grow 33 percent from 2020 to 2030 with experts predicting an estimated 8.2 million job openings in home-based care by 2028. What this means is there is a huge need for home care and home healthcare workers from all backgrounds, not just nursing, now and in the future.

Opportunities for Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses

Most people relate home health to a career in nursing. Though there are many different types of career opportunities in home healthcare, the truth is, [home health nurses](#) have never been in higher demand.

What Does a Home Healthcare Registered Nurse (RN) Do?

Home health nurses care for patients in their own homes by monitoring their health, treating wounds, performing tests and administering medication. A registered nurse working in a home setting will typically work under the supervision of a physician or a nurse practitioner, and they may be responsible for overseeing nurse aides or home health aides.

Home health nurses typically take care of adults and children who are managing a chronic disease or recovering from an illness, injury or surgery. Home health nurses who specialize in hospice and palliative care oversee the medical, physical, spiritual and emotional needs of patients approaching the end of life.

Why Become a Home Healthcare Nurse?

Maybe you've worked in a hospital or clinic setting for years and just need a change of pace. Or, maybe you're looking for a new opportunity that will provide better work-life balance for you and your family. When you're considering a career change, be sure to consider the many [advantages](#) of working as a home health nurse:

- You can utilize your knowledge and past experiences in the hospital setting to deliver complex medical care to patients in their homes.
- Every day is different, providing variety and fulfilling challenges that allow you to use your full suite of nursing skills to make a positive impact on your patients.
- Home health nurses enjoy 1:1 nurse-to-patient ratios, empowering you to provide the personalized care a patient needs to achieve their individual health goals.
- Make your own schedule and enjoy the flexibility that comes with it while being matched to assignments that fit your needs and preferences.

What Does a Home Health Registered Nurse (RN) Do?

- Assess patient's needs and develop plans of care with physicians
- Coordinate and oversee care plan with patient, family, and support staff
- Monitor and evaluate patient response to treatment, medication, healing and mobilization
- Administer medication and IV infusions
- Provide wound care treatment
- Work with clinical healthcare professionals to coordinate a patient's care in their home

How Do I Become a Home Health RN?

- Step 1: Earn an associate's degree in nursing (ADN) or a bachelor's degree in nursing.
- Step 2: Pass the [NCLEX-RN](#) to receive RN licensure.
- Step 3: Gain required nursing experience. Two to three years of medical-surgical nursing or critical care nursing often prepare you for a successful career as a home health registered nurse (RN).

**Apply for a
Home Health RN Position**

What Does a Home Health Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Do?

As a licensed practical nurse (LPN) working in the home setting, you will provide medical care and assist a patient with daily tasks in their home. A few common responsibilities of a home health LPN include:

- Administering medication
- Provide one-on-one skilled nursing care and treatment in patient's home
- Collaborate with RN, CNA, physicians, therapy team, social workers, and other members of a patient's home healthcare team to ensure the treatment plan is followed appropriately.
- Assess, monitor, document, and report patient progress

How Do I Become a Home Health LPN?

- Step 1: Complete a practical nursing program through an approved technical school or college.
- Step 2: Pass the [NCLEX-PN](#) exam
- Step 3: Gain the experience required to work independently as a home health LPN in a home setting.

**Apply for a
Home Health LPN Position**

Opportunities for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs)

Certified nursing assistants (CNAs) work in the home setting and help patients with a variety of medical and personal care tasks.

What Does a Home Health Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Do?

A CNA often acts as the eyes and ears of the registered nurse while caring for a patient in their home. As a home healthcare CNA, you will help patients with their hygiene needs and assist them with tasks of daily living. Common activities performed by home healthcare CNAs include:

- Bathing and grooming assistance
- Transferring patients to and from the bed, chair, etc.
- Assisting the RN with medication management reminders
- Checking patient's pulse and breathing rates
- Light house cleaning to ensure patient's safety and comfort

How Do I Become a Home Health CNA?

- Step 1: Earn your high school diploma or equivalent
- Step 2: Complete a state-approved CNA training program (often available through community colleges, hospitals, or The Red Cross)
- Step 3: Complete in-person clinical requirements
- Step 4: Pass the certification exam and get listed in your state's CNA registry

**Apply for a
Home Health CNA Position**

Opportunities for Home Care Aides, Home Health Aides (HHAs) Personal Companions and Caregivers

In addition to home healthcare, there are many rewarding career paths for caregivers in home care. Without any formal education, you can be a home care aide, personal companion or caregiver. These roles provide care and support with the activities of daily living to clients in their homes. To become a home health aide (HHA), you must complete a state-approved training program first.

What Do HHAs, Home Care Aides, Personal Companions and Caregivers Do?

A home care aide, home health aide, personal companion or caregiver can help a person with a variety of daily activities that make maintaining their independence at home easier, including:

- Bathing, dressing and grooming
- Preparing meals
- Transferring from a chair, toilet, or bed
- Light housekeeping
- Transportation to appointments
- Grocery shopping
- Companionship

Why Become a Home Care Aide, Home Health Aide, Personal Companion or Caregiver?

If you enjoy working with people and helping others when they need it most, a job as home care aide, home health aide, personal companion or caregiver could be a good fit for you.

A career in home care can be very rewarding—no two days are ever the same and there is true fulfillment in being able to make a difference in the life of another.

There are also many personal [benefits](#) to pursuing a career as a home care aide, home health aide, personal companion and caregiver:

- Provide meaningful companionship to clients who are not able to leave their home or see family and friends because of their health limitations.
- Make a genuine difference in the lives of other people every day.
- Since a college degree is not required, many people have started their careers this way and utilized tuition assistance programs to help fund their education while working towards a degree in nursing or other medical specialties.
- Enjoy a flexible work schedule with assignments to fit your needs.
- Home health and personal care aide job openings are projected to grow 33 percent from 2020 to 2030 with experts predicting an estimated 8.2 million job openings in home healthcare by 2028.

How Do I Become a Home Care Aide, Personal Companion or Caregiver?

Being a caring and empathetic person is essential if you want to be a home care aide, personal companion or caregiver in a home care setting. Having the ability to lift a certain amount of weight or experience in CPR may also be a qualification for certain positions.

Most caregiver positions require a high school diploma or equivalent and a valid driver's license. Some may require you to complete a caregiver training program.

**Apply for a Home Care Aide/
Personal Companion/Caregiver Position**

How Do I Become an HHA?

- Step 1: Earn your high school diploma or equivalent
- Step 2: Complete a state-approved home health aide training program
- Step 3: Gain experience required to work independently as a home health aide in a home care setting

**Apply for a
Home Health Aide Position**

Opportunities for Occupational Therapists

Whether related to an injury, illness or simply a result of aging, you may face a time when your body just won't function as you need it to. For patients who are overcoming an illness or had a surgery that resulted in the limited function of their body's upper extremities, [in-home occupational therapy](#) can be invaluable. Occupational therapists can make a huge difference in a patient's everyday life by helping them restore function and mobility so they can navigate even the simplest tasks independently.

What Do Home Health Occupational Therapists Do?

Occupational therapists (OT) are a critical part of the patient's home healthcare team. OTs work closely with a patient's physician to develop a plan of care that will allow the patient to thrive as well as possible.

- Treat patients in their homes and help them manage daily activities without any risk of injury
- Monitor patients' daily activities and make recommendations to help them with routine living tasks such as dressing and eating.
- Establish a plan for restoring function to damaged body parts and administer therapy services to help patients achieve desired results.
- Work with patients to make adaptations in their homes to make daily living tasks easy. For example, a home health occupational therapist may recommend the proper placement of handrails or bath rails to make washing easier.
- Administer diagnostic tests, confer with other caregivers and create reports on patient progress.

Why Become a Home Health Occupational Therapist?

Home health occupational therapists help patients regain their independence, strength, form and function so they can return to doing the daily activities they enjoy most. A career as a home health occupational therapist can be very rewarding.

Additionally, there are quite a [few benefits](#) to working as an occupational therapist in a home health setting, including:

- By helping someone remain in their own home, you give them back their ability to function and live independently.
- You use your skills to make life manageable for homebound patients.
- Experience the fulfillment that comes from making a difference in the lives of others every day.
- Enjoy a flexible work schedule with assignments to fit your needs.

How Do I Become a Home Health Occupational Therapist?

- Step 1: Earn a bachelor's degree from a college or university
- Step 2: Complete necessary coursework as required by an accredited occupational therapy program at a college or university
- Step 3: Complete mandatory clinical hours as required by your OT program
- Step 4: Pass the [National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy \(NBCOT\) exam](#)
- Step 5: Obtain proper licensure as required to work as an occupational therapist in the state(s) where you will be working

Opportunities for Home Health Physical Therapists (PTs)

Physical therapists are an integral part of a patient's home healthcare team, particularly for patients who are recovering from a surgery or illness that caused loss of function or mobility.

What Does a Home Health Physical Therapist Do?

As a home health physical therapist, you will visit patients in their homes to provide a wide range of rehabilitative services.

Some common responsibilities of a home physical therapist include:

- Hands-on therapy using appropriate
- Therapeutic exercises, gait training, and functional mobility training for certain orthopedic and neurological conditions
- Instruct patients on the safe and effective use of adaptive devices and durable medical equipment (DME)
- Teach patients how to effectively transfer from the bathtub, chair, and bed
- Perform balance training and provide instruction for safe stair-climbing
- Perform home safety evaluations

Why Become a Home Health Physical Therapist?

Many patients who are recovering from a serious illness, injury, or surgery can benefit from home health physical therapy, especially if they aren't able to leave the home due to medical restrictions. A career as a home healthcare physical therapist can be very fulfilling and rewarding.

A few benefits of working as a home health PT include:

- Enjoy building relationships with patients and their families.
- Compensation is typically very rewarding and competitive for home health PT positions
- Experience a less stressful environment as compared to hectic outpatient or inpatient settings.
- Experience the fulfillment that comes from making a difference in the lives of others every day.
- Enjoy a flexible work schedule with assignments to fit your needs.

How Do I Become a Home Health Physical Therapist?

- Step 1: Earn a bachelor's degree from a college or university
- Step 2: Complete necessary coursework as required by an accredited physical therapy program at a college or university
- Step 3: Complete mandatory clinical hours as required by your PT program
- Step 4: [Pass the National Physical Therapy Examination \(NPTE\)](#)
- Step 5: Obtain proper licensure as required to work as a physical therapist in the state(s) where you will be working



Considering a Career Change

Time for a Career Change? Consider Home Healthcare

Turn on the news for any period of time and you'll likely see reports of nursing shortages across the country—and even the world. And though things seem to be calming down with COVID-19, nurses and other healthcare workers continue to work harder than ever before amid limited resources, high stress and burnout.

But it doesn't have to be that way.

Making the Shift From Hospital or Clinic to Home Healthcare

Maybe you don't want to leave the nursing profession entirely, but instead, you're looking for a change of pace. If that's the case, now is a great time to consider transitioning your nursing career from a hospital to a home healthcare setting.

As you are considering where your nursing career will take you next, just know that home healthcare caters to nurses looking to get away from a stressful environment and return to the passion that led them to healthcare. Plus, you'll enjoy flexible hours, competitive pay and one-on-one patient care that makes every day rewarding.

If any of these factors resonate with you, it may be time for a change. Just know Interim HealthCare has a place for you.

[Explore Career Opportunities](#)

Reasons Home Health Nursing is Different

The home health setting is vastly different than a hospital setting. Nurses are able to provide one-on-one care in a home environment, which allows you the opportunity to establish a longer, more meaningful relationship with your patient and their family.

A few [common reasons](#) nurses are making the switch from hospital to home healthcare include:

- Ability to make a significant impact in a patient's life through home-based care
- Use your full suite of nursing skills to care for patients every day in their home
- Autonomy to do your job and the empowerment to improve patient outcomes
- Access to resources and support that allow you to provide the best care to your patients
- Job satisfaction is high because you are able to do what you love to do and make a difference in the lives of others
- Every day is different offering a variety of experiences and challenges that make work exciting
- Time to connect with patients and their family members on a personal level
- One-to-one nurse to patient ratios means you can provide a higher level of patient care
- A flexible work schedule with assignments that fit your needs
- Job security—as the 65+ demographic grows across the country, so has the need for home healthcare workers to care for them
- Opportunities for training and career advancement
- Work-life balance that makes caring for the needs

What You Should Look for in a Home Healthcare Agency

Ready to make the change? Be sure to look for a home healthcare agency that has your best interests in mind. A few things you should consider when looking for the home healthcare agency that will be your next employer include:

- Flexible schedules
- Rewarding assignments
- Competitive pay and benefits
- Positive work culture
- Training and development
- Career growth opportunities
- Skills training and continuing education
- Tuition discounts

Why Nurses are Choosing Interim HealthCare

If you're a nurse looking for a change of scenery or just want to see if the grass is truly greener on the other side, check out these five reasons nurses choose to work for Interim HealthCare:

1. We value your time

Picture how your quality of life would improve if you had the freedom to make your own schedule and enjoy more flexible hours. If you're looking for shorter shifts and fewer seven-on-seven-off schedules, home healthcare could be right for you. At Interim HealthCare, we will work with you to find assignments that meet your unique needs.

2. We prioritize your continuing education and training

It's more important than ever to stay up-to-date on new technology and medical training. Working for a company like Interim HealthCare ensures your continuing education is valued. We encourage all of our healthcare professionals and caregivers to take advantage of the advanced learning opportunities we provide.

3. We want to help you advance in your career

Have you ever been in a job where there's no opportunity for growth? It can be frustrating to be stuck in the same role with no opportunity to move up through an organization. If you're looking for an opportunity to advance in your nursing career, Interim HealthCare offers the experience, skills training and career development you're seeking.

4. We provide tuition discounts

Want to take your career to the next level? We offer tuition discounts with partner institutions for programs offered in-person and online. If you're ready to advance your career with a new degree or certification, Interim HealthCare can help. Education is important and our programs are intended to make furthering your education more affordable.

5. We provide a positive work culture where people feel valued

Individually owned and operated, we treat our staff like family. We value each member of our team and you can count on us to provide the resources and support you need to provide exceptional care to our patients and clients.

[Explore Career Opportunities](#)

It's Everything You've Been Looking for ... Interim HealthCare Has a Place for You

Interim HealthCare is the nation's first home care company. A leader in our industry, we've been matching skilled healthcare professionals and compassionate caregivers like you to clients and patients in their homes since 1966. While we are national in scope, we operate through 300+ locally-owned offices that are passionate about providing the kind of personalized care you can't find anywhere else.

You Can Work with Top Home Healthcare Professionals

At Interim HealthCare, we are a family of healthcare professionals and caregivers focused on improving the lives of the individuals we serve. We are committed to employing the very best home healthcare and home care professionals to care for our patients and clients. When you work for Interim HealthCare, you are working with the best in the business.

You Can Earn Competitive Compensation and Benefits

To keep you at your best, we offer some of the most competitive benefits and compensation packages in the industry:

- Flexible Schedule
- Rewarding assignments
- Positive work culture
- Steady hours
- Training & growth opportunities
- Tuition discounts
- Competitive pay
- Autonomy

You Can Experience Healthy Work-Life Balance

At Interim HealthCare, work-life balance is a top priority. Whether you're a full-time employee or picking up shifts here and there, we will work with you to ensure your work schedule is not overwhelming and meets your unique needs.

You Are Made for This

At Interim HealthCare, we are a family of healthcare professionals and caregivers focused on improving lives through home-based care. It's who we are. If you feel called to serve, help, support, care and connect with others, you bear the DNA of a home care professional too.

Think Interim HealthCare could be a good fit for you? Listen to our healthcare professionals and caregivers share their stories of how they are made for this!

Apply at Interim HealthCare Today!

Ready to make the change? It's time to step out and discover your true calling. The good news is, Interim HealthCare has a place for you!

[Apply Today](#)