Licensed Vocational Nurse

Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) provide basic medical care. They work under the direction of Registered Nurses and Doctors.

Licensed Vocational Nurses typically do the following:

Monitor patients' health—for example, by checking their blood pressure
Administer basic patient care, including changing bandages and inserting catheters
Provide for the basic comfort of patients, such as helping them bathe or dress
Discuss the care they are providing with patients and listen to their concerns
Report patients' status and concerns to registered nurses and doctors
Keep records on patients' health

Duties of LVNs vary, depending on their work setting. For example, they may reinforce teaching done by Registered Nurses regarding how family members should care for a relative; help to deliver, care for, and feed infants; collect samples for testing and do routine laboratory tests; or feed patients who need help eating.

In some states, experienced Licensed Vocational Nurses supervise and direct other LVNs and unlicensed medical staff.

Work Environment
Licensed Vocational Nurses work in many settings, including nursing homes and extended care facilities, hospitals, physicians' offices, and private homes. Most work full time.

Top Local Employers: Procare Therapy, Covenant Care, Sunbelt Staffing, Aveanna Health Care, Sutter Health

Median Pay
$66,983

Job Growth (2020-2025)
11%

Education and Training
Licensed Vocational Nurses must complete a state-approved educational program, which typically takes about 1 year to complete. They must be licensed.

Local Education:

City College San Francisco

Mission College

Carrington College

Gurnick Academy

Unitek College

For More Information:

Bureau of Labor Statistics

National Association of Licensed Practical Nurses