

As is the case where there is high demand, almost every community offers opportunities for training in health care fields. Training is available through:

- ◆ Community colleges;
- ◆ Vocational-technical schools; and
- ◆ Nursing schools.

You can get more information about CAAs by going online to www.caa.milspouse.org or by contacting your Family Support Center or the Voluntary Education Center at your military installation.

Prospects for Advancement

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 30 percent growth in health care jobs between 2004 and 2014. The demand for many patient care occupations has led medical institutions, such as hospitals and nursing homes, to pay training costs and/or provide time off for employees who want to upgrade their skills and earn certifications. Training for entry-level jobs can be easily obtained at postsecondary institutions such as community colleges. An example of a career path that starts with an entry-level job in a hospital or nursing home includes:



More Information

For more information about careers in health care services:

- ◆ Check online at www.careervoyages.gov or www.caa.milspouse.org;
- ◆ Contact the Voluntary Education Center or Family Support Center at your military installation;
- ◆ Contact the Military OneSource Spouse Education and Career Counseling Support Center at www.militaryonesource.com or call 1-800-342-9647; or
- ◆ Contact your local U.S. Department of Labor One-Stop Career Center at 1-877-US2-JOBS or www.service locator.org.

Health Care Careers for Military Spouses

Career Advancement Accounts



Launching Careers That Go Where You Go
CAA.MILSpouse.org

The Health Care Industry as a Workplace

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the health care industry is the second



fastest growing industry in the country, with an additional 4,992,000 new jobs projected between 2004 and 2014. The number of registered nurses (RNs) alone is expected to grow by 1,203,000. The demand is so great that nurses

have a wide choice of working conditions and salaries.

If you are interested in math and science and enjoy either the technical aspects of medical science or being a caregiver, you may want to consider a career in the health care industry.

You probably have received services from health care workers yourself and know something of the diversity of workplace settings, which range from hospitals to laboratories to patients' homes. Although health care jobs are concentrated in hospitals,

nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers, medical personnel also can be found as staff in places such as:

- ◆ Schools;
- ◆ Large companies;
- ◆ Government and military clinics;
- ◆ Private homes;
- ◆ Medical laboratories; and
- ◆ Dental and doctor offices.

Because health care is typically a 24-7 industry, health care workers may be required to work at night or in changing shifts. This is not necessarily a disadvantage, because it allows health care workers to work on a schedule that accommodates children or other demands on their time. However, not all health care careers involve caring for patients. There are many interesting, exciting careers as technicians who work in laboratories, transcribe medical information, or operate specialized equipment used in various medical tests or diagnostic procedures. These are called allied health careers, and the job titles often contain the terms "technician," "technologist," "assistant," "hygienist," or

"aide." Jobs that deal with the business side of health care are also an option.

Examples of Careers in the Health Care Industry

Generally, the more training required for a health care career, the higher the salary and the easier it is to find employment. For example, you can become an RN (the health care position most in demand) through 2-year and 3-year programs operated by nursing schools or local colleges. Becoming a licensed practical nurse requires at least 1 full year of training, while becoming a nurse assistant requires only a month, but earns the lowest wages of health care workers, about \$10 to \$13 per hour. The table at right provides examples of high-growth occupations that do not require a 4-year degree and their corresponding salaries. Some of these do not involve patient care.

Choosing the right career is a balance of interest, training investment, and earnings. For more information on career options in the health care industry, go online to www.careervoyages.gov and click on "Health Care" in the menu along the left side.

Careers in Health Care Services	
Careers	Average Hourly Rate
Licensed practical nurses	\$12-\$24
Dental assistants	\$10-\$21
Surgical technologists	\$12-\$25
Registered nurses	\$19-\$40
Respiratory therapists	\$17-\$31
Diagnostic medical sonographers	\$20-\$37

Training Funds Through Career Advancement Accounts (CAAs)

A CAA for as much as \$3,000 a year for 2 years will pay expenses related to training that earns a degree or credential in the health care services industry. Because careers that involve patient care typically require State licensing, CAAs also will pay for the cost of taking the licensing exams. These licenses may be transferable from one State to another.