



Nursing encompasses care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well, in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people. Nurses function under their own licenses and can assess and direct care one on one with patients or participate in dynamic care teams.

Scientific and technological advances have enabled a greater span of care in ambulatory settings. Ambulatory nurses provide preventive care, clarify diagnoses and support patients during the disease process. Telemonitoring enables nurses to meet with patients in person while leveraging physician expertise remotely.

When most people think of nursing, they visualize a nurse in a hospital; however, at least half of nurses today work in medical offices, in homes and in the community. These nurses are ambulatory nurses. Roles include team leader, message management, advice and triage, and care coordination.


**OUTLOOK**

The roles of ambulatory nurses will constantly expand, with no 2 days the same. Ambulatory nurses will thrive on variety — in settings and in patients — as they will need to coordinate care in a growing number of settings throughout the community, and will increasingly use telehealth to care for patients.


**EDUCATION AND  
ADVANCED TRAINING**

**Registered nurse:** Associate degree in nursing, bachelor's in nursing or diploma

**Advanced degrees and certifications:** Clinical nurse specialist, clinical nurse manager, certified registered nurse anesthetists, various specialty area certifications, nurse practitioner or master's in nursing

Ambulatory specialty providers include:

- » Western University of Health Sciences
- » California State University, Los Angeles
- » CE Direct (continuing education)
- » American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (professional certification)

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## WORK ENVIRONMENT

### Care settings

**Outpatient:** ambulatory, home, school, community, retail clinics

### Care anywhere

- » Tele and remote monitoring
- » Virtual care (video, phone, online chat)
- » Home care

## TAKE ACTION

**Employees:** Explore career paths at [kpcareerplanning.org/paths](http://kpcareerplanning.org/paths). Partnership union members can talk with an education trust career counselor: Ben Hudnall Memorial Trust ([bhmt.org/career-coaching](http://bhmt.org/career-coaching)) or SEIU UHW-West and Joint Employer Education Fund ([theadfund.org/cc](http://theadfund.org/cc)). Washington Region SEIU members

can talk with the SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Multi-Employer Training Fund ([healthcareerfund.org](http://healthcareerfund.org)).

**Managers:** Adapt to emerging trends. Talk with a Workforce of the Future implementation specialist to discuss training and education opportunities ([kpcareerplanning.org/prd/contact-us.php](http://kpcareerplanning.org/prd/contact-us.php)).

CURRENT CORE JOB SKILLS	FUTURE CORE SKILLS	EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Compassion</li> <li>» Assess patients</li> <li>» Knowledge of chronic conditions</li> <li>» Motivational interviewing</li> <li>» Care coordination</li> <li>» Medical wellness/post-hospital care coordination</li> <li>» Use medical devices</li> <li>» Point-of-care testing</li> <li>» Use electronic medical records</li> <li>» Awareness of health equity issues</li> <li>» Message management</li> <li>» Advice and triage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Behavioral health</li> <li>» Support skills for “hospital at home”</li> <li>» Clinical social network systems</li> <li>» Knowledge of community resource locators</li> <li>» Big data analytics to manage population health</li> <li>» General surgery</li> <li>» Performance improvement</li> <li>» Connected medical devices</li> <li>» Video consulting technology</li> <li>» Finance and business acumen</li> <li>» Specific care needs of geriatric patients</li> <li>» Coordinate with broad interprofessional teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Work independently in the community</li> <li>» Direct impact on quality and HEDIS scores</li> <li>» Team leader role</li> </ul>

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