

HEALTH-CARE AIDE



WHAT THEY DO

A Health Care Aide (HCA) provides direct care, personal assistance and support to patients who are ill, elderly or disabled. They assist patients with activities such as bathing, grooming, dressing, and toileting. They may help with feeding or exercise and in some settings help patients take their medications. Health Care Aides are also known as nursing attendants, home support aides, home support workers or residential support workers.

HOW THEY WORK

Health care aides are valued members of the health-care team. They work under the direct or indirect supervision of a regulated health professional, such as a nurse. At times, health care aides provide work guidance to other health care aides and students. They also interact with patient family members and caregivers.

Health care aides work in a variety of health care settings including hospitals, continuing care facilities and within patient/client home settings. They can work as residential care aides, mental health aides, home health aides, psychiatric aides and client care assistants.

There are 6800 Health Care Aides employed by Alberta Health Services and many more work in private care facilities and services across the province. The demand for health care aides continues to grow as an important and necessary role in delivering health care in Alberta, making it a great career choice.

TRAINING

Health Care Aides at AHS are required to have a Health Care Aide certificate. There are several post-secondary institutions that are licensed to teach the 2019 provincial curriculum.

RESOURCES

Government of Alberta: Health Care Aide program <https://www.alberta.ca/health-care-aide-program.aspx>

ALBERTA ALIS PROFILE:

<https://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/occupations-in-alberta/occupation-profiles/health-care-aide/>

AHS CAREER PROFILE:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/careers/page11729.aspx>