

Introduction to Health Care & Careers

Chapter 9

Answers to Checkpoint and Review Questions

Checkpoints

1. What are the three main types of educational programs for RNs?

The three main types of educational programs for RNs are diploma, associate's degree, and bachelor's degree.

2. What are the four types of specialties that RNs can pursue?

The four types of specialties that RNs can pursue are care in a particular setting, treating certain health conditions, focusing on specific organs or systems, and treating defined populations.

3. How does the training for LPNs differ from that of RNs?

LPN training is skills-based. RNs have more classroom education, and they learn more about nursing theory. Also, LPN training programs are significantly shorter.

4. In which two settings will employment opportunities for LPNs be best in the future?

Employment opportunities for LPNs from 2008 to 2018 will be best in home health care services and nursing care facilities.

5. What personal characteristics should certified nursing assistants have?

Nursing assistants should have empathy, patience, emotional strength, a cooperative attitude, and a sense of responsibility.

Review Questions

Matching

Match the job function with the occupation that typically performs it.

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| <u> e </u> 1. Working as a trauma or critical care nurse | a. Certified nursing assistant |
| <u> b </u> 2. Delivering babies | b. Nurse-midwife |
| <u> d </u> 3. Serving as a primary care provider | c. Licensed practical nurse |
| <u> a </u> 4. Caring for patients' personal needs | d. Nurse practitioner |
| <u> c </u> 5. Doing many of the hands-on tasks typically associated with nursing | e. Registered nurse |

Multiple Choice

6. What regulates the practice of nursing?
 - a. international standards and codes
 - b. federal guidelines and regulations
 - c. state nurse practice acts**
 - d. institutional policies

7. Which is the largest group of health care providers in the U.S.?
 - a. physicians
 - b. registered nurses**
 - c. licensed practical nurses
 - d. certified nursing assistants

8. Which professional typically performs light housekeeping duties as well as patient care?

- a. **certified nursing assistant**
 - b. licensed practical nurse
 - c. registered nurse
 - d. geriatric nurse
9. Which nursing occupation offers many opportunities to specialize?
- a. certified nurse anesthetist
 - b. certified nursing assistant
 - c. licensed practical nurse
 - d. **registered nurse**
10. The need to better regulate the quality of care in nursing homes led to formal training programs for
- a. nurse practitioners
 - b. registered nurses
 - c. licensed practical nurses
 - d. **certified nursing assistants**

Completion

11. **Nursing** is caring for people who are ill, injured, or unable to care for themselves in some other way.
12. On-site education and training provided by employers is known as **in-service education**.
13. Modern nursing is based on many beliefs of this historical figure: **Florence Nightingale**.

14. A nurse anesthetist is a type of RN known as a/an **advanced practice nurse**.

15. A/an **certified nursing assistant** works under the supervision of an LPN or RN.

Short Answer

16. Compare the educational requirements for the three nursing occupations.

Registered nurses complete an approved diploma, associate's, or bachelor's degree program (about three, two, or four years, respectively). Licensed practical nurses complete a practical nursing program that lasts about a year. Certified nursing assistants complete a training program that is a minimum of 75 hours, although it may be longer in some states.

17. What are some key differences in the work of a registered nurse and a licensed practical nurse?

There is overlap in the work of RNs and LPNs, but because RNs have more education, they have a wider scope of practice. In some states, LPNs can do more advanced tasks, such as giving prescribed medicines and starting IVs. But generally RNs are trained and licensed to perform more advanced nursing procedures. When an LPN works under an RN, the RN is responsible for the LPN's actions.

18. Why must LPNs be observant and good at oral communication?

LPNs often work closely with patients, providing basic bedside care. Their work includes monitoring patients' conditions and talking with them about their needs, their medical history, and how they are feeling. Being observant and good oral communicators makes LPNs better able to obtain and report information on patients' conditions.

19. Give three examples of tasks that certified nursing assistants typically perform.

Examples will vary but should consist of simple, basic nursing functions, such as taking vital signs, and tasks that meet personal needs, such as feeding and bathing patients and cleaning rooms.

20. Briefly explain the requirements for licensure or certification for the three nursing occupations in this chapter.

To be licensed, an RN must complete an approved diploma, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree program and pass the NCLEX-RN. Other requirements vary by state. An LPN must graduate from a state-approved school and pass the NCLEX-PN. Some states have additional licensing requirements. To be certified, a CNA must complete a state-approved training program and pass a competency test. Some states impose additional requirements.