

# What it takes to provide home care nursing

Interested in pursuing a career in home care nursing? To succeed in this area, you should:

- be able to provide safe, effective, reliable care
- have up-to-date, proficient clinical skills
- know the basic “rules” of home care
- possess a wide range of service-driven and patient- and family-oriented interpersonal skills
- be extremely detail-oriented—and enjoy paying attention to detail
- be flexible
- be able to serve as case coordinator or care coordinator
- be willing to take responsibility for the patient and the plan of care
- be able to function as both generalist and specialist
- be self-directed and able to work independently and autonomously
- be able to establish priorities and manage diverse tasks and responsibilities while adhering to organizational policies, clinical paths, and other standardized protocols
- have a desire to continue learning
- be familiar with the economics of healthcare and the larger environment that affects home care
- be open to new information and clinical skills
- recognize and accept the need to balance clinical and administrative demands
- have practical wisdom of home care nursing, which comes with practice, education, and experience
- possess case-management skills and familiarity with case-management models
- possess meticulous assessment and documentation skills
- be comfortable with the technology used to document health information
- sincerely appreciate people and be able to accept their unique personalities and chosen lifestyles, as well as the effects of these lifestyles on health
- possess the right sense of humor to help patients, families, and peers get through rough times
- be an enthusiastic, effective teacher with a knowledge of evidence-based resources
- be a safe driver.

Adapted from Marrelli T. *Handbook of Home Health Standards: Quality, Documentation, and Reimbursement*. 5th ed. St. Louis, MO: Mosby; 2012.