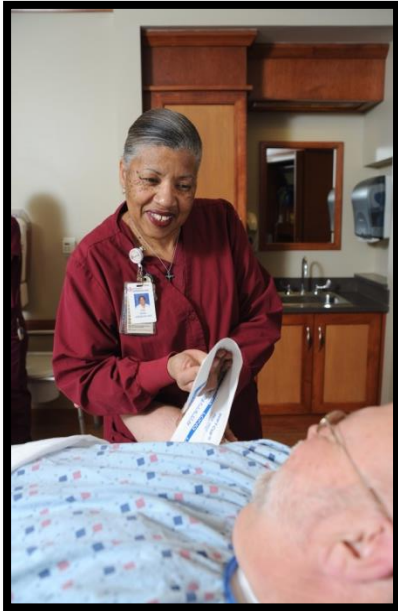




CERTIFIED PATIENT CARE ASSISTANT (CPCA/CPCT)



The Patient Care Assistant Program is a twelve-week program that consists of 378 hours of classroom instruction, skills lab, and clinical experiences in a hospital setting. Patient Care Assistants (PCA), also called Patient Care Technicians (PCT), are entry-level care providers who work directly with patients under the supervision of a registered or licensed practical nurse. They have a variety of duties depending on the type of facility and the type of patient. Duties may include taking vital signs, feeding, bathing, giving massages to patients, and assisting doctors in examinations. They may also perform advanced skills such as Phlebotomy, glucometer testing and EKG's. Many people choose to become Patient Care Assistants as a first step toward nursing, medicine or other patient care careers. Patient Care Assistants usually work in hospitals, but can be employed in clinics, physician offices and other health care facilities as well.

Jeremiah's Hope Academy is an Eligible Training Provider for WIOA, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Veterans GI Bill in the State of Alabama. Check with your County's Career Center for more information.



"Training You Can Believe In"

St. Vincent's Birmingham
Jeremiah's Hope Academy
2800 University Boulevard, Suite 101
Birmingham, Alabama 35233
205-939-7233
www.jhacademy.org

Application Requirements:

A high school diploma or GED is required. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, complete a background check, and drug screening. Interviews are required. This process is lengthy and competitive but assures that students will be qualified to work in hospitals and healthcare institutions. Nonrefundable application fees required.

Training

Training programs provide instruction and supervised clinical experiences related to basic patient care, interpersonal / communication skills, safety measures, infection control, medical terminology, nutrition, basic anatomy, vital signs assessment, CPR certification, and employability skills. Supervised clinical experiences for Patient Care Assistants occur in the hospital setting as well as Phlebotomy training in a laboratory setting. Successful completion of an approved program in Patient Care Assistant prepares the student to take the National Healthcare Career Certification Examination.

- **\$20 Application Fee (Non-refundable) due with completed application**
- **Tuition Cost (includes books, supplies and basic cert. fee): \$2,768.00**
- Additional cost for clinical scrubs

***Scholarships are available for those who qualify Fees effective January, 2015 and are subject to change.**

Patient Care Assistant FAQs

Where do Patient Care Assistants (PCAs) work, what are their hours, and what do they do?

Patient Care Assistants are most often employed in hospitals providing direct care to patients on the in-patient units. Most full-time Patient Care Assistants work about 40 hours per week, days, evenings, or nights. The Patient Care Assistant is the front line care provider, and has the opportunity to minister to patients in a most meaningful manner. Patient Care Assistants perform routine tasks under the supervision of nursing and medical staff. They observe patients' physical, mental, and emotional conditions and report any change to the nursing or medical staff. Patient Care Assistants answer patient call lights; make beds; and help patients to eat, dress, and bathe. They also provide skin care to patients; take their temperature, pulse rate, respiration rate, and blood pressure; and help them to get into and out of bed and to walk. Patient Care Assistants also empty bedpans and change soiled linens which require dealing with another person's body fluids. For these reasons, Patient Care Assistants may be exposed to infection and major diseases, such as hepatitis, however their training in infection control provides them with procedures to reduce the risk of contracting disease. PCAs answer a particular vocational call to sacred work by caring for the needs of patients.

What can the PCA expect when providing care to patients?

The patients for whom Patient Care Assistants provide care may be disoriented, irritable or uncooperative. While the Patient Care Assistants' work can be emotionally and physically demanding, many gain satisfaction from assisting those in need. Additionally, PCAs will be interacting with patient families in stressful situations and working as a team member with other healthcare professionals.

What are the physical demands of being a PCA?

The physical demands Patient Care Assistants/Phlebotomists may experience during their training are stooping, kneeling, frequent lifting (up to 50 lbs.), carrying and pushing objects (up to 25 lbs.), and continuous walking and standing.

What will the PCA training include?

The Patient Care Assistant course is a twelve-week program that incorporates classroom lecture, interactive skills lab, and patient care clinicals in a hospital and laboratory setting. Classroom instruction offers the Patient Care Assistant a wide variety of classes in life skills, human relations, hospital safety and procedures, physiology, and an introduction to healthcare in a faith-based health system that will provide the student a more holistic view of their role in a faith-based hospital setting.

Advanced technical skills the Patient Care Assistant will learn are: performing phlebotomy, EKG, glucometer (monitoring patient's blood sugar), use of the bladder scanner and pulse oximetry machines. The phlebotomy training consists of classroom instruction, skills lab, and clinical experiences in a hospital laboratory setting. The student will have an opportunity to perform venipuncture as well as skin punctures on patients to help fulfill the requirement that is needed to take the National Healthcare Career Exam. The EKG training includes classroom instruction, skills lab, and clinical experiences in performing EKG tests.

What is the class schedule for PCA training at Jeremiah's Hope Academy?

The class schedule is dependent upon available classroom space, and is subject to change based upon the classroom needs of St. Vincent's Hospital Birmingham for meetings and training events. You can go to the website at www.jhacademy.org to see the most up to date class schedules.

Can I expect to find employment as a PCA?

Nearly every hospital has frequent openings for PCA or PCT. It is a growing field in health care and, with healthcare reform, the need is projected to continue to increase.