

# Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

October 2022

## Nuclear Medicine Technologist

Nuclear Medicine Technologists prepare radioactive drugs and administer them to patients for imaging to help physicians and surgeons diagnose a patient's condition. Nuclear Medicine Technologists use scanning equipment to capture images to provide to physicians or others who diagnose, care for, and treat patients and to researchers who investigate uses of radioactive drugs. There are three types of Nuclear Medicine Technologists including Nuclear Cardiology Technologist (NCT), Nuclear Medicine Computed Tomography Technologist (CT) and Positron Emission Tomography Technologist (PET).

Average Annual Pay: \$78,760



*"It is rewarding to help patients get better and make them as comfortable as possible."*

## How Do I Become a Nuclear Medicine Technologist?

**Projected Job  
Market Growth:  
2% by 2031**

Complete an Associate Degree from a Nuclear Medicine Technology Program. Some technologists complete an additional associate degree or a bachelor's degree in a related health field and then complete a 12-month certificate program in nuclear medicine technology. Certification is not required to get licensed but may be required by employers. Licensing requirements vary by state (New York State does not require licensing). Nuclear Medicine Technologists may additionally get certified in PET, NCT, or CT, or other certifications such as basic life support.

## What Does a Nuclear Medicine Technologist Do?

- Explain medical procedures to patients and answer questions
- Follow safety procedures to protect patients and themselves from unnecessary radiation exposure
- Prepare radioactive drugs and administer to patient

- Maintain and operate imaging equipment
- Keep detailed records of procedures
- Follow procedures for radiation disposal
- In the event of a radioactive incident or nuclear disaster, some nuclear medicine technologists may be involved in emergency response efforts.



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## A Professional Account

*George Pluchino, Nuclear Medicine Technologist at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY shares his personal insight on Nuclear Medicine Technology.*

### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

*"Helping patients get better and making them as comfortable as possible."*

### What is the most challenging?

*"Seeing patients that are ill and the struggles that they are going through with a cancer diagnosis."*

### What do you wish you knew back in school that you know now?

*"To be more eager at learning diverse things that would apply to my current position. Learning more in school would have saved time later on."*

### Anything else you want to share?

*"It is a high demand and high reward profession. It is a rewarding field with good salary and benefits."*



Click on the image to learn more about Nuclear Medicine Technology from [alisWebsite](https://www.alisWebsite.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCNvM0fTm4E>



Scan Me



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcaChXkQmbM>

Click on the image for first hand accounts of Nuclear Medicine Technology from Loma Linda University Health

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585-786-6275 for more information

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<http://nysahec.org/our-programs/new-nys-ahec-scholars-program/>

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