



February's Healthcare Career Focus:

Phlebotomist

Phlebotomists draw blood from patients for the purpose of research, running tests, or blood donation. Blood is commonly drawn from a vein, but if only a small amount is necessary, a finger prick may suffice. Phlebotomists must be comfortable with the sight of blood and with the equipment needed to support the process. Attention to detail is important since phlebotomists label blood specimens and prepare the specimens for testing.

What might I do as a Phlebotomist?

Collect blood specimens from patients in such a way as to prevent contamination of specimens

Ensure that you are drawing blood from the correct patient by verifying their identification and entering it into the appropriate data base

Reassure patients if they are hesitant, talking them through the procedure

Ensure that the proper amount of blood has been drawn for the type of testing that needs to be done

Ensure that the specimen is properly labeled and stored

Properly maintain equipment to prevent spread of infection

Work full or part time in a hospital, clinic, or laboratory



How do I become a Phlebotomist?

- Take Biology, Chemistry and Math in High School
- Graduate with a high school diploma—a *college diploma is not required for this health career*
- Many employers expect phlebotomy job candidates to have completed a certification course at a community college, medical center, vocational school, or other, but it is not a NY state requirement
- Many employers would prefer that candidates have passed a certification exam, but it is not a NY state requirement

**Average Salary:
Phlebotomist
\$25,000—35,000**

What is it really like to be a Phlebotomist?

Phlebotomy appeals to many students because it is a great way to dive into the healthcare field without spending the time and funds to get a college degree. Many use it as a stepping stone to see if they like working in a clinical or hospital environment and enjoy working with diverse patients in a healthcare setting. Getting hands-on experience with patients, health professionals, and medical equipment/procedures is invaluable, and many find it a rewarding long-term career as well.

A successful phlebotomist develops the following characteristics:

- Detail-oriented
- Personable and compassionate
- Confident
- Flexible

Meet Nika in *A Day in the Life of an ER Phlebotomist* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsV0KPos8tw>

Meet Lindsey and her colleagues in *What's it Like to Work as a Phlebotomist?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciU3pFb2WKo>



“(Phlebotomists) must understand the clinical context of what they are doing... that results are only as good as the specimens received...”

Jennifer H. Randle

“...phlebotomists serve an under-appreciated role in the management of the patient and, based on their performance, can actually affect the outcome of the clinical results...”

Gary Milburn, PhD

“It is important that the profession welcomes phlebotomists of both sexes, who must be diligent, polite, and interactive, work well under pressure, and communicate effectively...”

Usman Waheed



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Please contact us if you have questions about healthcare career opportunities or educational pathways to healthcare careers!

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