

Technical Equipment (medical setting)

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A. Occupations

1) Sterile Processing Technician

- Not a regulated profession in Ontario
- Certification available: certificate issued by training institution

Role

- Decontaminate, disinfect, inspect, assemble, sterilize and store sterile supplies and reusable patient care equipment
- Function safely and competently in a processing department, as well as a surgical suite in acute care hospital settings

Educational Requirements

- May receive on-the-job training
- Continuing education program available – Algonquin college certificate program

Skills/Qualities

Technical

- Basic computer skills: word processing, email, database knowledge
- Operate sterile processing equipment

Communication

- Good oral and written communication skills

Other

- Knowledge of basic medical terminology
- Able to stand or walk for long periods of time
- Not allergic to latex
- Good motor co-ordination, manual dexterity and finger dexterity
- Able to work under pressure and pay close attention to details
- Good organizational skills
- Good teamwork skills
- An interest in contributing to community health and safety
- Enjoy working with a team, operating equipment and using hand tools, and having clear guidelines and organized methods for their work

Typical Employers

- Hospital central processing facilities, operating rooms and day procedure facilities
- Doctor's offices
- Private health care facilities
- Surgical centres

Average Hourly Wage

Source: <http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo>

Sterile processing technicians generally earn up to \$31,000 a year (2003 estimate) \$15.89/ hour (average)

Salaries vary according to such factors such as experience, level of responsibility, seniority, size of company, size of city, etc.

8) Other Positions in the Field

Central Supply Worker: Provide a centralized service for the decontamination, assembly, packaging, sterilization, quality assurance checks, distribution and control of sterile and clean items used throughout the hospital systems; ensure that adequate provisions of sterile supplies, linens, instrumentation, procedure and specialty trays are available to meet the needs of all clients. Source: http://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/careers/upload/file_collection/Healthcare_factsheets_2003.pdf

Respiratory Equipment Service Technician: These technicians assume responsibility for the delivery and maintenance of home oxygen equipment and a variety of home health care equipment. They possess a class "G" license and previous delivery experience is preferred. They have demonstrated ability to work safely in a physically demanding environment and adhere to relevant legislation. They possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills and have demonstrated their ability to work independently and manage their time effectively. Source: <http://www.proresp.com>

B) Labour Market Prospects

Employment turnover is expected to increase as members of the baby boom generation retire.

C) ITPs in the Field

There is a low level of challenge in this position for ITPs.

D) Links

Educational Institutions

- Algonquin College, Ottawa <http://www.algonquincollege.com/ce/pm/CE6310X.html>

Related Web Sites

Alberta Learning Information Service – Sterile Processing Technician
<http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/occinfo>