

Critical Care Nursing

Critical care nurses are registered nurses who provide specialty care to patients with immediate, **life-threatening** injuries and illnesses.

Some subspecialties include: Cardiology ■ Neonatal ■ Neurology ■ Pediatrics ■ Pulmonary Medicine ■ Surgery ■ Trauma

Where do they work?

In intensive care units (ICUs), pediatric ICUs, neonatal ICUs, cardiac care units, cardiac catheter labs, telemetry units, progressive care units, emergency departments and recovery rooms.

A majority of critical care nurses work in hospitals, but they can also work in nursing homes, outpatient facilities, flight units, nursing schools and home healthcare.

Roles and responsibilities:

- Identifying, assessing and monitoring patients' health problems
- Giving intensive therapy and intervention
- Operating life support systems
- Documenting and recording patient information
- Serving as a patient advocate
- Collaborating with patients, their families and other healthcare professionals
- Providing education and support to patients and families
- Assisting with end-of-life care

37% of nurses who work in a hospital setting are critical care nurses.

Essential strengths include:

Being compassionate in difficult situations

Critical thinking

Excellent listener and communicator

A desire to learn

Organization

Problem solving

Quick thinking

Sound judgment

Technically inclined



The demand for critical care nurses is expected to increase by **26%** through 2020.

SOURCES

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The Stanley Shalom Zielony Institute for Nursing Excellence

consultqd.clevelandclinic.org/nursing