

Patient Care Technician

Career Comparisons

	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW)	Patient Care Technician
Position Summary	A Certified CHW is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. [1]	A Patient Care Technician (PCT) is mainly focused on working closely with patients, in conjunction with nurses. PCTs help perform basic care for patients, such as assisting them in using the restroom, serving meals, or changing bedding. They may also monitor vital signs and provide emotional support to patients and families. [4], [7]
Training and Prerequisites	- Completion of an approved training program for CHW Certification in South Dakota (200 hours of training and 40 hours of shadowing). - Obtain Certification as a Community Health Worker or Community Health Representative in South Dakota. [2]	- High School graduate or GED. [6] - Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls is the only place in South Dakota that offers a PCT training program. [5]
Certificate/Licensure	CHWs and CHRs are certified through the Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota (CHWSD) on behalf of the South Dakota Department of Health and South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Medical Services. [2]	- Phlebotomy/Patient Care Technician Diploma. [5] - License and certification not required. [5]
Typical Supervisors	CHWs are primarily supervised by a clinic manager, nursing manager, or other organizational manager.	Supervised by registered nurse or licensed practical nurse. [8]
Median Hourly Wage (National) [3], [6]	Certified Community Health Worker (CHW) – \$24.54	Patient Care Technician – \$18.96

Sources:

- [1] **American Public Health Association.** *Community Health Workers.* 2026. [Link](#)
- [2] **Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota.** *CHW and CHR Certification.* 2026. [Link](#)
- [3] **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.** *Community Health Workers.* August 2025. [Link](#)
- [4] **Rasmussen College.** *Medical Assistant vs Patient Care Technician: What You Need to Know.* August 2020. [Link](#)
- [5] **National Healthcareer Association.** *Your Path to Patient Care Technician/Assistant Certification.* 2026. [Link](#)
- [6] **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.** *Nursing Assistants and Orderlies.* August 2025. [Link](#)
- [7] **MedCerts.** *What Is a Patient Care Technician?* November 2019. [Link](#)
- [8] **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.** *What Nursing Assistants and Orderlies Do.* August 2025. [Link](#)