



LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN)

How transitioning service members and veterans can move successfully into a civilian Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) job



Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), sometimes called Licensed Vocational Nurses, provide basic nursing care under the direction of registered nurses and doctors. They assess, plan, implement, and evaluate care for patients in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, and group homes. Their specific duties vary, depending on their employment setting and the state in which they work.

QUICK STATS

- Vocational - Associates Degree**
- 1+ Years Experience**
- \$20 - \$31/hour**

POTENTIAL MILITARY TRAINED JOB CANDIDATES

A look at the number of service members serving in military occupations related to civilian Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) in a given year and the number who transition out provides a snapshot of the potential number of candidates who might fill these jobs in Illinois. Innovative education and employment programs that recognize military training and experience can entice military trained applicants to Illinois.

	AIR FORCE  4N0X1 Aerospace Medical Service	ARMY  68C Practical Nursing Specialist	NAVY  HM/0000 Hospital Corpsman Basic	Totals (National)
Service Members				
Serving in the Military as of 9/30/15	10,935	2,954	9,939	23,828
In Occupation who left the Military in FY 2015	1,082	335	2,474	3,891

COMPARISON OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY TRAINING/EDUCATION CURRICULA

There are only a few gaps between the typical civilian Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) education curriculum and military training curricula for related military occupations. These gaps are bridged by many Service members through on-the-job training and experience. Moreover, academic or employer-developed bridge training programs can help military trained applicants fill these potential training gaps.

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Standard LPN/VN Curriculum <i>(From National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Analysis: A Comparison of Selected Military Health Care Occupation Curricula with a Standard Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Curriculum)</i>	AIR FORCE 4N0X1 Aerospace Medical Service	ARMY 68C Practical Nursing Specialist	NAVY HM/0000 Hospital Corpsman Basic
Anatomy and Physiology	★	★	★
Pharmacology	★	★	★
Nursing Fundamentals	★	★	★
Medical Surgical	★	★	★
Maternal and Child Health Nursing		★	
Issues in Nursing	★	★	★

- ★ = subject is fully covered in the military occupation's training
- ☆ = subject is partially covered in the military occupation's training
- Blank = subject is not covered in the military occupation's training

COMPARISON OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY JOB DUTIES

Service members holding military occupations related to civilian Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) perform many of the same job duties as civilian LPNs. Many have had years of hands-on experience and can be readily trained in job duties they haven't performed.

89% **89%** **89%**
Percentage of Civilian Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Job Duties Performed by Military Occupation

CIVILIAN Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) Job Duties	AIR FORCE 4N0X1 Aerospace Medical Service	ARMY 68C Practical Nursing Specialist	NAVY HM/0000 Hospital Corpsman Basic
Record patient medical histories	■	■	■
Administer intravenous medications	■	■	■
Monitor patient conditions during treatments, procedures, or activities	■	■	■
Administer basic health care or medical treatments	■	■	■
Apply bandages, dressings, or splints	■	■	■
Measure the physical or physiological attributes of patients	■	■	■
Collaborate with healthcare professionals to plan or provide treatment	■	■	■
Supervise patient care personnel	■	■	■
Analyze quantitative data to determine effectiveness of treatments or therapies	■	■	■
Sterilize medical equipment or instruments	■	■	■
Assist patients with hygiene or daily living activities	■	■	■
Maintain medical facility records	■	■	■
Perform clerical work in medical settings	■	■	■
Schedule patient procedures or appointments	■	■	■
Train patients, family members, or caregivers in techniques for managing disabilities or illnesses	■	■	■
Prepare medical supplies or equipment for use	■	■	■
Operate diagnostic or therapeutic medical instruments or equipment	■	■	■
Collect biological specimens from patients	■	■	■
Explain medical procedures or test results to patients or family members	■	■	■
Prepare patients physically for medical procedures	■	■	■
Test biological specimens to gather information about patient conditions	■	■	■
Maintain inventory of medical supplies or equipment	■	■	■
Manage preparation of special meals or diets	■	■	■
Order medical supplies or equipment	■	■	■
Clean medical equipment or facilities	■	■	■
Assist healthcare practitioners during examinations or treatments	■	■	■
Treat patients using physical therapy techniques	■	■	■

ABILITY TO MEET ILLINOIS JOB REQUIREMENTS

The Army's Practical Nursing Specialists (68C) are required to hold a license as a practical or vocational nurse. Air Force and Navy trained applicants without an LPN license need to complete an approved LPN education program and pass the NCLEX-PN. Some have the option to meet the education program requirement by completing a military transition/bridge to LPN education program offered at select colleges in Illinois. Many could likely pass the NCLEX-PN with some additional preparation or study.

Illinois Requirement		AIR FORCE 4N0X1 Aerospace Medical Service	ARMY 68W Combat Medic Specialist	NAVY HM/0000 Hospital Corpsman Basic
Education/Training	Approved LPN education program required	544 Hours	52-week Army course and state course in practical or vocational nursing required	560 Hours
Licensure	National Council Licensure Examination - Practical Nursing (NCLEX-PN) required	Not Required	Required to pass NCLEX-PN and possess a current State (or U.S. Territory) license as a practical or vocational nurse*	Not Required
Certification	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required

*Individuals who hold an LPN license outside of Illinois need to apply for licensure by endorsement and submit proof of graduation from an approved LPN education program. They can submit their military training for review against the state's education program standards.

Visit [Veterans.gov](https://www.veterans.gov) for more resources for veterans interested in pursuing employment/training in the field, healthcare employers interested in learning more about hiring veterans, and other stakeholders supporting veterans.