

Chiropractic Technician/Assistant

■ Job Description

Chiropractic technicians relieve chiropractors of many administrative and clinical duties, freeing them to concentrate on patient diagnosis and treatment. The technician may schedule appointments; perform preliminary examination procedures; take case histories; operate conjunctive therapy equipment; take and develop x-rays; take specimens and perform simple lab tests; handle bookkeeping and billing; process insurance forms; and communicate to patients the philosophy of chiropractic through lay lectures on nutrition, rehabilitative exercise, and treating the body as a whole.

■ Job Settings

Chiropractors' offices, clinics, and, in some cases, hospitals

■ Projected Need

Nationally, employment of chiropractors is expected to increase faster than average through the year 2010. In Illinois, average employment growth is expected. An increase in the coverage of chiropractic services by Medicare and insurance companies has increased the demand for chiropractic care. In addition, increased public awareness of alternative medical treatments has contributed to the growth in demand for these services. As demand for chiropractic services rise, the need for individuals trained to relieve chiropractor's from routine tasks and administrative duties will increase.

■ Salaries

Entry-level wages range from \$16,700-\$22,600/year. With several years of experience maximum salary is around \$27,900/year.

■ Related Careers

Dental assistant, optometric assistant, podiatry assistant, and medical assistant

■ Differences in Training

Some chiropractic colleges and a few community colleges offer associate degree programs for chiropractic technicians. These programs provide training in paraprofessional care such as radiology, diagnostics, and therapeutic assistance. The National Academy of Chiropractic Assistants (NACA) offers a four-month

training program that covers 16 different subjects and awards a certificate of completion.

■ Resources

National Academy of Chiropractic Assistants
P.O. Box 140014
Austin, TX 78714-0014
Phone: 512.928.1745
<http://www.naca-online.com>