

Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technician

■ Job Description

Electrocardiograph (EKG) technicians operate an instrument that measures the electrical impulses of the heart and translates these to tracings on graph paper. The EKG technician attaches electrodes to the chest, arms, and legs of the patient after applying a gel that facilitates the movement of electrical impulses. The technician then moves the electrodes across the chest and manipulates the switches on the EKG machine to obtain tracings. After the EKG is completed, the technician prepares it for interpretation by the physician. The EKG technician may also care for the equipment.

■ Job Settings

Hospitals, physician offices, cardiac rehabilitation facilities, and clinics

■ Projected Need

Employment of EKG technicians is expected to decline through 2010. Despite the increased demand for heart testing, jobs for EKG technicians are likely to decrease. This is because hospitals are training nurses aides to perform basic EKG tests. However, technicians who know how to run stress tests and apply heart monitors will still be in demand.

■ Salaries

Nationally, the median wage for cardiovascular technologists and technicians is about \$16.83 per hour. Salaries range from \$12.31 to \$21.88 per hour.

In Illinois, median wage is \$17.19 per hour.

Beginning technologists and technicians earn \$11.43 per hour. Experienced workers receive \$20.84 per hour.

■ Related Careers

EEG technician, sonographer, radiologic technologist, perfusionist (cardiopulmonary technician), respiratory therapist/technician, nuclear medicine technologist, and medical laboratory technician

■ Differences in Training

Technicians may receive training through a technical college or may be trained on the job.

■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/>. You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.

[Electrocardiograph Technology](#)

■ Credentials

No certification or licensing is required. A voluntary credential may be obtained through the Cardiovascular Credentialing International.

■ Resources

Cardiovascular Credentialing International
4456 Corporation Lane, Suite 120
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
Phone: 800.326.0268
<http://www.cci-online.org>

Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
4356 Bonney Road, #103
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-1200
Phone: 757.497.1225
<http://www.acp-online.org>