What Does it Mean to Be a Personal Care Attendant?

“With our clients, the rewards go both ways. They’ve had some big lives and I’ve formed great friendships. I’m a nurturer, and I couldn’t have stumbled into a better situation for myself.”
- Kathryn Sheehan, Personal Care Attendant (PCA)

WHAT IS A PCA?
PCAs assist clients and families in their homes with non-medical personal care and routine household tasks.

WHO MAKES A GOOD PCA?
Being a PCA isn’t for everybody. Some people are natural caregivers, with an instinct for empathy and strong interpersonal skills. If you have these qualities, then this job is a great fit for you!

Working and helping in people’s homes requires sensitivity and understanding, which differentiates this role from many others. Successful PCAs can be of any age and background, from college-aged students to retirees, and all share an underlying passion to care for others.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE?
Our services are provided in clients’ homes and are often as unique as the needs of the people we serve. What we do on a daily basis is determined by a client’s individual needs. Common daily tasks include providing personal care and routine household duties, such as dressing, bathing, grooming, housekeeping, meal planning/preparation, transportation and toileting. Your schedule could include multiple clients per day/week, contingent on your schedule and individual client needs.
WHY BECOME A PCA?
First and foremost, it is rewarding work. You are helping people maintain their safety and independence. The bonds you form with your clients and the broader community are strong. Becoming a PCA provides you with an entry-level opportunity in the healthcare field that can grow into even larger opportunity. Our organization actively supports those who wish to advance their careers. Many of our PCAs say they enjoy their flexible schedules and that the assistance they receive from our organization makes them feel valued and supported.

HOW DOES SCHEDULING WORK?
As you go through the hiring process, we’ll talk with you about your availability. A great aspect about being a PCA is having the flexibility to create a schedule that works with your unique needs. Our schedulers compare your availability with the needs of our clients to plan a work schedule as far in advance as possible.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?
Pre-hire training is at no cost to you. Successful completion of training typically results in employment. Opportunities to advance to a Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) position include corresponding salary increases.

Depending on length of service and the number of hours worked quarterly, PCAs may be eligible for paid time off, retirement contributions and health insurance. PCAs who travel to clients’ homes receive compensation for travel time and mileage in accordance with Home Health & Hospice policies.

LOOKING FOR A LONGER-TERM CAREER PATH?
For some, being a PCA is an ideal career simply because it’s an added source of income. For others, it serves as a stepping stone toward a more advanced career in healthcare. Home Health & Hospice supports career growth for employees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To find PCA openings and to apply, please visit UVMHomeHealth.org. Once we receive your application, we will reach out and schedule a pre-training interview.

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HOURS
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