



# A CAREER IN Health Care



Nassau-Suffolk  
**Hospital Council, Inc.**

*The collective voice of Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals*





# A Career in Health Care

Often when deciding what career path to follow, people identify various goals they hope to achieve. They want good salaries, opportunities for advancement, and challenging and interesting work experiences. You can fulfill these goals with a career in health care, but you can add to those features an important ingredient: the good feeling you get from helping others.

Yes, careers in health care are careers that count! Be part of a team that brings hope and comfort to the sick and elderly. Teach the disabled to recapture their independence. Help identify and manage various medical conditions. These are just a few examples of how rewarding it is to be part of the health care team.

Allied health includes fields such as nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, medical laboratory technology, respiratory therapy, nutrition, radiologic technology and more. These careers pay well, are in demand throughout the country, and offer flexible hours in stimulating environments.

Demand for health professionals is expected to grow more than twice as fast as the rest of the labor force in the coming decades. So when you are considering where your future will take you, consider health care. Become one of the team that makes a difference in people's lives - it'll make a difference in your life too!

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*The Collective Voice of Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals*

## **ABOUT THE NASSAU-SUFFOLK HOSPITAL COUNCIL**

The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) is an advocacy organization that represents the interests of Long Island's hospitals. We regularly interact with lawmakers and regulatory authorities to ensure reasonable and rational legislation and regulation for our member hospitals. As the representative voice of Long Island's hospitals, we also maintain close relationships with all media outlets, as well as allied health and social service organizations and the Long Island business community. Affordable, accessible, quality health care is what every Long Islander deserves and our association is committed to finding ways, through the legislative and regulatory processes, to ensure that happens. Toward that goal, we provide information and education on all matters related to health care policy. These include economics and finance, quality and performance improvement, workforce, physician/provider issues, emergency preparedness, regulatory compliance, and managed care issues.

**This Career Guide is a joint project between the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council's (NSHC) Human Resources and Communications Committees. Members include the senior human resource managers and senior public information managers from each hospital. These professional groups are just two of the committees within NSHC that meet regularly to share information and ideas and to work on projects and initiatives aimed at improving operational and clinical efficiencies at Long Island's hospitals.**

*Users of this guide should always check with the college, university, or other educational/training institution in which they are interested for the most up to date information about prerequisites, eligibility, and degrees/certificates offered before enrolling.*

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# Health Care Occupations/Professions

**ADMITTING REPRESENTATIVES** interview patients, verify financial data, and prepare initial patient information and medical records. A high school diploma or GED equivalent is a requirement for this position.

**AUDIOLOGISTS** are specialists in communication disorders. Hearing and balance disorders are assessed and treated by an audiologist. Audiologists identify the type of hearing loss and select, fit and dispense amplification systems such as hearing aids. A Master's degree is required.

**BIOMEDICAL TECHNICIANS** provide performance testing, repair, calibration and safety testing of medical electronics/electromechanical equipment. It is the biomedical tech's responsibility to ensure each instrument is functioning according to the manufacturer's specifications, in addition to regulatory agency codes and standards. There are two areas of work for biomedical technicians: in-house technician and field technician. In-house technicians work in hospitals and for manufacturers and field technicians work for manufacturers and third-party service providers. The educational requirements for a biomedical technician are an associate's degree in electronics, electronics trade school, and/or a biomedical associate's degree.

**CARDIAC MONITOR TECHNICIANS**, also known as *Telemetry Technicians*, check the heart rhythm patterns of patients to detect abnormal pattern variations. They usually work in the intensive care or cardiac care units of hospitals. These technicians

are responsible for reviewing patients' records to determine normal heart rhythms. They monitor current patterns and note any deviations. To do this, technicians use instruments called calipers to measure the length and height of a patient's heart rhythm pattern on graphic tape readouts. Cardiac monitor technicians observe the cardiac monitor screen and listen for an alarm to identify any abnormal heart rhythm variation. They notify nurses and doctors when medical attention is needed.

Most cardiac monitor technicians are trained on the job in hospital programs that last from one month to a year. A high school diploma or its equivalent is required for acceptance into a hospital's training program. Courses in health, biology, and computer technology are recommended.

**CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGISTS** assist physicians in diagnosing and treating cardiac (heart) and peripheral vascular (blood vessel) ailments.

Cardiovascular technologists and technicians schedule appointments, perform ultrasound or cardiovascular procedures, review doctors' interpretations and patient files, and monitor patients' heart rates. They also operate and care for testing equipment, explain test procedures, and compare findings to a standard to identify problems. Other day-to-day activities vary significantly between specialties.

Cardiovascular technologists may specialize in any of three areas of practice: invasive cardiology, echocardiography, or vascular technology.

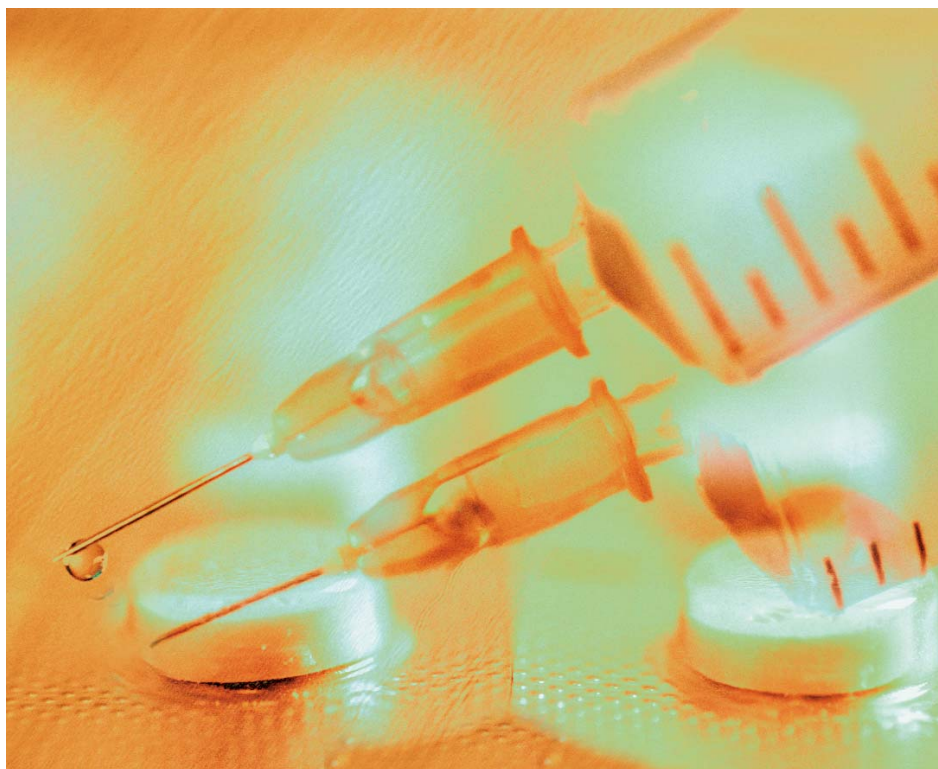
## **CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGISTS AND CLINICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS**

perform tests to determine the absence, presence or extent of disease. They are trained in all areas of lab testing including chemistry, hematology, blood banking and microbiology. Clinical laboratory technologists supervise technicians and assistants and perform complex tests which often require independent judgment. Clinical laboratory technicians, under limited supervision, carry out less complicated tests. Clinical laboratory technologists and technicians must have a New York State license to practice. Licensure requires education and examination; the clinical laboratory technologist must have a bachelor's degree in clinical laboratory sciences (medical technology), which includes basic and clinical science courses and clinical experience. Alternatively, an individual who already possesses a bachelor's degree in a biological, chemical or physical science can meet the education requirements by subsequently completing an additional accredited one-year clinical laboratory technology education program. Clinical laboratory technicians must have an associate's degree in clinical laboratory technician science (medical laboratory technician) which includes basic and clinical science courses and clinical experience.

**CYTOLOGISTS** evaluate cell samples that have been shed normally, scraped from the body, or aspirated with a fine needle for evidence of disease, such as cancer. Cytologists are trained to notice subtle changes in cells so they can accurately identify precancerous, malignant and infectious conditions. The field is perhaps best known for the "Pap test," an evaluation of cells from the

uterine cervix, but cytology techniques can identify precancerous or cancer cells in virtually any area of the body.

To become a cytologist you must have achieved certain education requirements, including a bachelor's degree in cytology from a program registered by the Department of Education or determined by the Department of Education to be the substantial equivalent, or have received a bachelor's degree that includes a minimum number of credit hours in the sciences and received appropriate clinical education in an accredited cytology program or a program determined by the Department of Education to be the substantial equivalent.



**DIABETES COUNSELORS** are most often registered nurses or registered dietitians with bachelor's degrees who have additionally completed a certification course in diabetes counseling.

**DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHERS/ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGISTS** are highly-skilled professionals who use specialized equipment to create images of structures inside the human body that are used by physicians to make a medical diagnosis. The process involves placing a small device called a transducer against the patient's skin near the body area to be imaged. The transducer works like a loudspeaker and microphone because it can transmit sound and receive sound. The transducer sends a stream of high frequency sound waves into the body that bounce off the structures inside. The transducer detects sound waves as they bounce off the internal structures. Different structures in the body reflect these sound waves differently. These sounds are analyzed by a computer to make an image of the structure(s) on a television screen or record it on videotape.

Sonographers have extensive, direct patient contact that may include performing some invasive procedures. They must be able to interact compassionately and effectively with people who range from healthy to critically ill.

The professional responsibilities include, but are not limited, to:

- obtaining and recording an accurate patient history
- performing diagnostic procedures and obtaining diagnostic images
- analyzing technical information

- using independent judgment in recognizing the need to extend the scope of the procedure according to the diagnostic findings
- providing an oral or written summary of the technical findings to the physician for medical diagnosis
- providing quality patient care
- collaborating with physicians and other members of the health care team

Sonographers must also be knowledgeable about and limit the risk from possible exposure to blood and body fluids. Many sonographers also assist in electronic and clerical scheduling, record keeping, and computerized image archiving. Sonographers may also have managerial or supervisory responsibilities.

Comprehensive Diagnostic Medical Sonography programs vary in length from one to four years depending on the degree or certificate awarded. Prerequisites also vary among programs from high school diploma or GED to specific qualifications in a related allied health profession.

The Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) recommends that prospective students select a reputable program that follows minimum curriculum and clinical education standards recognized by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS). The SDMS does not recommend training programs that provide limited opportunity for students to apply classroom instruction and technical skills in patient care settings (clinical rotations). When seeking a reputable program, candidates might wish to consult the Commission on Accreditation of Allied

Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), which accredits diagnostic medical sonography programs in the United States.

**DIALYSIS TECHNICIANS**, under general supervision, set up and operate hemodialysis units and related equipment to provide dialysis treatment for patients with kidney disorders or failure.

**DIETETIC TECHNICIANS AND DIETETIC ASSISTANTS** assist dietitians in food administration and nutrition care services. Dietetic technicians complete an associate's degree while dietetic assistants usually complete a one-year program. These programs generally are given in vocational schools and community colleges.

**DIETITIANS** promote and maintain health, prevent or treat illness and aid rehabilitation through nutrition, education and diet. Dietitians may manage a food service, plan regular menus or special menus for people with health problems and give instruction on proper diet. The required education is a bachelor's degree in dietetics, nutrition or home economics, plus a dietetic internship or qualifying work experience. A Certified Dietician Nutritionist (CDN) accreditation is granted through the New York State Office of the Professions and is the minimum requirement for employment. You must also be a Registered Dietician and receive your credential from the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR).

**ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY TECHNICIANS**, sometimes referred to as *Cardiac Sonographers*, use ultrasound machines to obtain recordings of the heart. Using sound waves, they are able to detect certain abnormalities of the heart.

**ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHIC (EEG) TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS** operate the EEG machine, which records electrical brain activity and helps to diagnose brain disorders such as strokes and tumors. Technicians train on the job or in formal training programs generally given in clinics or hospitals. Many of these programs result either in a diploma or certification. In addition to performing the electroencephalogram (EEG) test, EEG technologists explain the testing procedure to the patient and obtain important background information from the patient. They then apply the electrodes to the patient's scalp, record the EEG, and prepare the EEG record for the doctor's review.

**EKG TECHNICIANS** perform electrocardiograms (EKGs), holter monitoring tests, and other routine, non-invasive cardiac procedures. The EKG technician maintains department equipment and prepares reports for physician review. Training is available at technical schools as part of "Medical Assistant" programs.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS (EMT) AND PARAMEDICS** complete a certification program given by the State of New York. Upon successful certification, the EMT or EMT-P may act in a voluntary capacity with a fire or ambulance department and may seek employment in many different settings. Typically in the field, the EMT responds to medical emergencies and provides immediate care to the critically ill or injured. Paramedics have standing orders based on county and state guidelines and have physician guidance available through medical control hospitals.

Typical care provided by EMTs and paramedics may include administering cardiac resuscitation, treat-

ing shock, providing initial care to poison or burn victims and transporting patients to appropriate hospitals for definitive care. The EMT-B (Basic) is the beginning course and increases in training and responsibilities to EMT-CC (Critical Care) and finally to EMT-P (Paramedic). Training programs may be given by hospitals, community colleges, firehouses, and/or police departments. Courses run from approximately 130 hours to in excess of 400. All advanced training (EMT-CC and EMT-P) courses are in conjunction with on-site participation in hospitals. Some colleges offer EMT training at the associate's degree level.

EMT-Bs, EMT-Cs and EMT-Ps are utilized throughout a variety of hospital positions. They can often be used as transporters, patient care technicians, hospital technicians and monitor technicians.

**HISTOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS AND HISTOLOGIC TECHNICIANS** prepare anatomic tissues from anatomic sites (biopsy or surgically removed) for microscopic examination by pathologists. Histologic technicians need to be supervised. This procedure requires a strong background in anatomy, chemistry, and basic scientific method. Medical technician licensing is required in New York State, with ad-

ditional training in histology techniques. Most histologic technologists and technicians work in the pathology laboratory of a hospital or clinic. Others may work in medical or research laboratories. A certified histologic technologist needs a four-year bachelor's degree in histologic technology or can complete a histological technology educational program after college. Histologic technicians require an associate's degree. Studies for the technologists and technician levels cover medical terminology, chemistry, anatomy, laboratory mathematics, microscopy and other related topics. Exams given by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) provide certification.

**HOME HEALTH AIDES** provide services to homebound or disabled individuals and their families under the supervision of home care or social service agencies. Training is commonly provided on the job by the agency. Nurse's aides provide basic patient care under direct nursing supervision. They may bathe and feed patients, change linens and make beds. In order to provide home health aide services in New York State, a person must successfully complete a training and competency evaluation program or a competency program conducted by an approved home health aide training program. A home health aide training program must include classroom and supervised practical training. The aide trainee must receive a minimum of 75 hours of training, including 16 hours of supervised practical training. Supervised practical training means training in a laboratory, patient's home or other health care setting in which the trainee demonstrates knowledge while performing tasks on an individual under the direct supervision of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse. At a minimum, fifty percent (50%) of each aide's



supervised practical training must be provided in a patient care setting. The setting(s) used for practical training and the number of training hours provided should be based on each student's learning needs.

**INVASIVE CARDIOLOGY TECHNOLOGISTS** specialize in invasive procedures. They assist physicians with cardiac catheterization procedures in which a small tube, or catheter, is threaded through a patient's artery from a spot on the patient's groin to the heart. The procedure can determine whether a blockage exists in the blood vessels that supply the heart muscle. The procedure also can help to diagnose other problems. Part of the procedure may involve balloon angioplasty, which can be used to treat blockages of blood vessels or heart valves without the need for heart surgery. Cardiology technologists assist physicians as they insert a catheter with a balloon on the end to the point of the obstruction. Another procedure using the catheter is an electrophysiology test, which helps locate the specific areas of heart tissue that give rise to the abnormal electrical impulses that cause arrhythmias.

Technologists prepare patients for cardiac catheterization by first positioning them on an examining table and then shaving, cleaning, and administering anesthesia to the top of their leg near the groin. During the procedures, they monitor patients' blood pressure and heart rate with EKG equipment and notify the physician if something appears to be wrong. Technologists also may prepare and monitor patients during open-heart surgery and during the insertion of pacemakers and stents that open up blockages in arteries to the heart and major blood vessels.

**LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES (LPN)**, work under the supervision of registered nurses or physicians. They give routine bedside nursing care to patients and assist registered nurses with patients who are more seriously ill. Generally, training is an 18-month program at a state-approved school of practical nursing. Most programs require a high school diploma or equivalent. Increasingly, LPNs are employed in nursing homes.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANTS** perform administrative and clinical tasks to keep the offices of physicians, podiatrists, chiropractors, and other health practitioners running smoothly. The duties of medical assistants vary from office to office, depending on the location and size of the practice and the practitioner's specialty. In small practices, medical assistants usually do many different kinds of tasks, handling both administrative and clinical duties and reporting directly to an office manager, physician, or other health practitioner. Those in large practices tend to specialize in a particular area, under the supervision of department administrators.

Medical assistants who perform administrative tasks have many duties. They update and file patients'



medical records, fill out insurance forms, and arrange for hospital admissions and laboratory services. They also perform tasks less specific to medical settings, such as answering telephones, greeting patients, handling correspondence, scheduling appointments, and handling billing and bookkeeping.

For medical assistants, duties vary according to what is allowed by state law. Some common tasks include taking medical histories and recording vital signs, explaining treatment procedures to patients, preparing patients for examinations, and assisting physicians during examinations. Medical assistants collect and prepare laboratory specimens and sometimes perform basic laboratory tests on the premises, dispose of contaminated supplies, and sterilize medical instruments. They might instruct patients about medications and special diets, prepare and administer medications as directed by a physician, authorize drug refills as directed, telephone prescriptions to a pharmacy, draw blood, prepare patients for x-rays, take electrocardiograms, remove sutures, and change dressings. Medical assistants also may arrange examining room instruments and equipment, purchase and maintain supplies and equipment, and keep waiting and examining rooms neat and clean.

**MEDICAL RECORDS TECHNICIANS AND CODERS** read and review medical documentation provided by physicians and other health care providers in order to obtain detailed information regarding disease, injuries, surgical operations, and other procedures. This detailed information is translated into numeric codes. The medical coder assigns and sequences diagnostic and procedural codes using a universally recognized coding system. Using this official classification system, coders

must ensure correct code selection for compliance with federal regulation and insurance requirements. These medical codes are used extensively for reimbursement of hospital and physician claims for Medicare, Medicaid, and insurance payments. The information compiled by the medical coders is used to prepare statistical reports for use by clinic and hospital administrators for planning, marketing, and other management purposes. Local, state, and federal governments also use this information to identify health care concerns to the public at large. Knowledge of both the medical and business sides of health care is essential in this detail-oriented field of health information management. A minimum of a high school diploma is required; an associate's degree is preferred. Training is offered at community colleges and technical schools.

**MENTAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS/MENTAL HEALTH THERAPY AIDES** work with emotionally disturbed or mentally impaired individuals, usually in psychiatric hospitals or mental health clinics. They work as members of interdisciplinary teams of mental health professionals such as psychiatrists, psychologists, registered nurses, and others. In general, mental health aides help patients with personal grooming and participation in educational, recreational, and therapeutic activities. They may interact with patients and spend more time with patients than any other team member. Technicians participate in both the planning and implementation of individual patient treatment plans. They may be responsible for admitting and interviewing patients, record keeping, assisting in administration of medication, and conducting therapy sessions. Mental health technicians and aides need to have good observation skills. They must

recognize and report changes in behavior of patients to other team members. Personal characteristics that are important for this job are a stable personality, ability to work well with people, and the motivation to help others. Most mental health technicians learn their skills on the job, from experienced workers or employer-provided classroom instruction. However, hospitals and nursing care facilities may require previous experience and/or certification as a nursing assistant (CNA).

**NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGISTS**, under a physician’s supervision, use small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose and treat disease. Generally, training programs are two years long and are offered by community colleges, universities, hospitals, or the military. Most two-year programs require a high school diploma for admission. A certificate from an approved Nuclear Medicine Program or certification by the Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board or the American Registry for Radiologic Technologists is required.

**NURSE AIDES (NAS)** assist nursing staff by performing various routine patient care activities. Requires Certified Nursing Assistant Course.

**NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP)** is a registered nurse who has completed specific advanced nursing education (generally a Master’s degree) and training in the diagnosis and management of common as well as complex medical conditions. Nurse practitioners provide a broad range of health care services.

Nurse practitioners provide care in family practice offices, urgent care centers, and rural health clinics. In some states they must maintain collaborative working relationships with physicians, while in

other states the term “collaboration” is used in a broader sense. In the United States, NPs are licensed by the state in which they practice, and have a national board certification (usually through the American Nurses Credentialing Center or American Academy of Nurse Practitioners). Nurse practitioners can be trained and nationally certified in areas of pediatrics, geriatrics, family, psychiatry and acute care.

Nurse practitioners treat both acute and chronic conditions through comprehensive history taking and physical exams, prescribing medications and physical therapy, and ordering tests and therapies for patients, within their scope of practice. Many NPs have a DEA registration number that allows them to write prescriptions for federally-defined “controlled medications.” Nurse practitioners may also bill Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance for services performed. An NP can serve as a patient’s “point of entry” health care provider and may see patients of all ages depending on their designated scope of practice. The core philosophy of the field is individualized care. Nurse practitioners focus on patients’ conditions as well as the effects of illness on the lives of the patients and their families. Informing patients about their health care and encouraging them to participate in decisions are central to the care provided by NPs.

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS** are licensed health care professionals who are trained to work with people of all ages to learn or regain the skills they need to live independent, productive lives. Occupational treatment utilizes purposeful, functional activities to achieve measurable goals. Occupational therapists can work in a variety of

treatment settings including hospitals, nursing homes, schools, private practice, or home care. Within hospitals, occupational therapists can work in rehabilitative units, acute care units or in the outpatient department.

Occupational therapy assistants carry out treatment plans under the direction of a licensed occupational therapist. Occupational therapists must complete a Master's degree in occupational therapy and pass a national certification exam to obtain licensure. Occupational assistants must complete an associate's degree program.

**PHARMACISTS** are experts in the science of drugs and the art of drug therapy. They dispense drugs prescribed by physicians and other health practitioners and educate and inform consumers and pa-

tients about the use and possible effects of medication. Pharmacists also advise physicians and other health practitioners on the selection, dosages, interactions and effects of medications. They maintain confidential records of patients' medications to ensure their safety and monitor their progress, provide specialized disease management services for patients with conditions such as diabetes or asthma, and prepare drug therapies in areas such as oncology and intravenous nutrition support. To become a pharmacist, you need to graduate with a doctor of pharmacy (PharmD) degree from an accredited college of pharmacy, serve an internship under a licensed pharmacist and pass a state examination (NAPLEX), all of which enable you to obtain a license to practice.

**PHARMACY TECHNICIANS** help licensed pharmacists provide medication and other health care products to patients. Technicians usually perform routine tasks to help prepare prescribed medication, such as counting tablets and labeling bottles. They also perform administrative duties, such as answering phones, stocking shelves, and operating cash registers. Technicians refer any questions regarding prescriptions, drug information, or health matters to a pharmacist. In hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted-living facilities, technicians have added responsibilities, including reading patients' charts and preparing the appropriate medication. After the pharmacist checks the prescription for accuracy, the pharmacy technician may deliver it to the patient. The technician then copies the information about the prescribed medication onto the patient's profile. Technicians also may assemble a 24-hour supply of medicine for every patient. They package and label each dose separately. The packages are then placed in



the medicine cabinets of patients until the supervising pharmacist checks them for accuracy, and only then is the medication given to the patients.

Two organizations, the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board and the Institute for the Certification of Pharmacy Technicians, administer national certification examinations. To be eligible for either exam, candidates must have a high school diploma or GED, no felony convictions of any kind within 5 years of applying, and no drug or pharmacy-related felony convictions at any point.

#### **PHLEBOTOMISTS/PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIANS**

draw blood from patients and donors in hospitals, blood banks, or similar facilities and prepare specimens for screening, analysis, or other medical purposes. They perform screening tests and report results. One to three months of phlebotomy certification is typically required.

#### **PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS**

work with people who have been physically disabled by illness, accident, or congenital anomaly. Physical therapists treat a wide variety of conditions including: musculoskeletal and orthopedic conditions, neurological conditions, balance and coordination disorders, gait disorders and sports and athletic injuries. Upon a physician's referral, therapists evaluate the extent of disability and plan a treatment program that may include exercise to improve muscle strength and coordination and/or the application of heat, cold water, or electricity to relieve pain or to change the patient's condition. The goals of therapy are to decrease a person's pain, restore function and limit his or her impairment. Assistants perform routine treatment procedures as directed by the therapist and assist

with more complex procedures. They work under the direction of a physical therapist.

Physical therapists work in all areas of a hospital, nursing home, private practice, school settings, and home care. In a hospital, therapists work on all patient care floors including pediatrics, neo-natal intensive care, cardiac rehabilitation, and intensive care.

Physical therapists complete a Master's degree or an entry-level doctorate of physical therapy degree (DPT) and pass the National Physical Therapy Examination to obtain licensure. Physical therapy assistants complete an associate's degree.

**PHYSICIANS** diagnose and treat illnesses and prescribe and administer treatment for people suffer-



ing from injury or disease. Physicians examine patients, obtain medical histories, and order, perform, and interpret diagnostic tests. They counsel patients on diet, hygiene, and preventive health care. The common path to practicing as a physician requires eight years of education beyond high school and three to eight additional years of internship and residency. All states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories license physicians. Physicians can choose to practice in primary care, such as pediatrics, family, and geriatric medicine, or specialty care, including a variety of surgical specialties.

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS (PA)** work closely with physicians and, as such, are educated in the medical model designated to complement physician training. Upon graduation, physician assistants take a national certification examination developed by the National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners. Educational requirements for licensure as a registered physician assistant include completion of a program for the training of physician assistants that is approved by the New York State Education Department. The average PA program curriculum runs approximately 26 months.

PAs are taught to diagnose and treat medical problems. Education consists of classroom and laboratory instruction in the basic medical and behavioral sciences (anatomy, pharmacology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and physical diagnosis), followed by clinical rotations in internal medicine, family medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency medicine, and geriatric medicine.

PA programs look for students who have a desire to study, work hard, and be of service to their community. Most physician assistant programs require applicants to have previous health care experience and some college education. The typical applicant already has a bachelor's degree and approximately four years of health care experience.

**POLYSOMNOGRAPHY TECHNICIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS** utilize a diagnostic test known as a sleep study (polysomnography) to diagnose and treat sleep disorders. A sleep study is used to gather extensive data concerning an individual's physiologic activity while sleeping. Some of the parameters measured include breathing efforts, blood oxygen levels, electrical activity of the brain (EEG), electrocardiogram (ECG), eye movement (ROC and LOC), and muscle activity (EMG). Sleep technologists are the health care practitioners who perform and help interpret these studies. They provide data and make recommendations to physicians specifically trained in sleep medicine so that patients can receive appropriate therapy to treat discovered sleep disorders.

**PSYCHOLOGISTS** study the human mind and human behavior. Research psychologists investigate the physical, cognitive, emotional, or social aspects of human behavior. Psychologists in health service fields provide mental health care in hospitals, clinics, schools, or private settings. Psychologists employed in applied settings, such as business, industry, government, or nonprofit organizations, provide training, conduct research, design organizational systems, and act as advocates for psychology.

Like other social scientists, psychologists formulate hypotheses and collect data to test their validity. Research methods vary with the topic under study. Psychologists sometimes gather information through controlled laboratory experiments or by administering personality, performance, aptitude, or intelligence tests. Other methods include observation, interviews, questionnaires, clinical studies, and surveys.

Psychologists apply their knowledge to a wide range of endeavors, including health and human services, management, education, law, and sports. They usually specialize in one of a number of different areas.

A doctoral degree usually is required for independent practice as a psychologist. Psychologists with a Ph.D. or Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) qualify for a wide range of teaching, research, clinical, and counseling positions in universities, health care services, elementary and secondary schools, private industry, and government. Psychologists with a doctoral degree often work in clinical positions or in private practices, but they also sometimes teach, conduct research, or carry out administrative responsibilities.

**RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGISTS** apply radiation to the human body under the supervision of a radiologist to treat disease, often cancer. A one or two-year program in radiation therapy technology is usually required which may be given by a hospital or community college. Several bachelor's degree programs exist.

**RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS** are the medical professionals who perform diagnostic imaging ex-

aminations and administer radiation therapy treatments. Radiologic technologists who perform imaging examinations are responsible for accurately positioning patients and ensuring that a quality image is produced. They work closely with radiologists, the physicians who interpret medical images to either diagnose or rule out disease or injury. A radiologic technologist who works in the radiation therapy department and administers radiation to patients to treat cancer and other diseases is known as a radiation therapist. The **radiation therapist** works with a team of specialists to assure that the treatment is properly given. Radiologic technologists may specialize in computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), mammography, and other types of imaging and must be certified in these specialty areas by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. A two-year program in radiography given by hospitals or community colleges is required. There are some four-year bachelor's programs.

**RECREATIONAL THERAPISTS** treat and rehabilitate individuals with specific health conditions, usually in conjunction or collaboration with physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and physical and occupational therapists. In long-term and residential care facilities, recreational therapists use leisure activities—especially structured group programs—to improve and maintain their clients' general health and well-being. They also may provide interventions to prevent the client from suffering further medical problems and complications.

Recreational therapists assess clients using information from observations, medical records, standardized assessments, the medical staff, the clients' families, and the clients themselves. They

then develop and carry out therapeutic interventions consistent with the clients' needs and interests. For example, they may encourage clients who are isolated from others or who have limited social skills to play games with others, and they may teach right-handed people with right-side paralysis how to use their unaffected left side to throw a ball or swing a racket. Recreational therapists may instruct patients in relaxation techniques to reduce stress and tension, stretching and limbering exercises, proper body mechanics for participation in recreational activities, pacing and energy conservation techniques, and team activities. As they work, therapists observe and document a patient's participation, reactions, and progress.

Most entry-level recreational therapists need a bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation, or in

recreation with a concentration in therapeutic recreation. People may qualify for paraprofessional positions with an associate's degree in therapeutic recreation or another subject related to health care. An associate's degree in recreational therapy, training in art, drama, or music therapy, or qualifying work experience may be sufficient for activity director positions in nursing homes.

**REGISTERED NURSES (RN)** not only care for sick patients, but promote physical and psycho-social well-being of people in general. Nurses can be educated in a number of ways: a four-year bachelor's degree or a two-year associate's degree with the option of advanced degrees. Advanced practice specialties are available under anesthesia, geriatrics, and psychiatry. For specific educational requirements and programs available, refer to the chart in this guide.

**REHABILITATION COUNSELORS** assist people with physically, mentally, emotionally, or socially handicapping conditions to become or remain self-sufficient, productive citizens. Disabilities may result from birth defects, illness and disease, work-related injuries, automobile accidents, and the stresses of war, work, and daily life. Rehabilitation counselors help individuals with disabilities deal with societal and personal problems, plan careers, and find and keep satisfying jobs. Rehabilitation counselors may also work with individuals, professional organizations, and advocacy groups to address the environmental and social barriers that create obstacles for people with disabilities. A rehabilitation counselor builds bridges between the often isolated work of people with disabilities and their families, communities, and work environment.



**RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS**, on physicians' orders, treat patients with heart-lung problems such as asthma, COPD, or heart failure. They administer oxygen, various types of gases and aerosol drugs. They also may do diagnostic testing related to respiratory functions or offer rehabilitation for patients with chronic lung disease or cardiac problems. Therapists complete a two-year associate's or four-year bachelor's degree.

**RESPIRATORY THERAPY TECHNICIANS**, under the supervision of a respiratory therapist, perform tasks and responsibilities within the framework of the practice of respiratory therapy. Tasks include the performance of cardiopulmonary evaluation, respiratory therapy, treatment techniques, and education of the patient, family and public. An applicant must file an application for licensure/registration with the New York State Education Department's Office of the Professions to practice as a registered respiratory therapist technician in New York State. The latest information and requirements for licensure are available on the New York State Education Department's Office of the Professions website at [www.op.nysed.gov/rt.htm](http://www.op.nysed.gov/rt.htm).

**SOCIAL WORKERS** help people bring about change in themselves and in society. They work with individuals, groups and communities in a medical setting. They help patients and their families handle problems related to physical or mental illness or disability. These health care professionals help people overcome obstacles to improve their quality of life. A bachelor's degree program in social work generally prepares students for case worker responsibilities for this career. A Master's degree and licensure by the New York State Department of Education is required for advanced and specialized social work.

**SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS** are specialists in communication disorders. Speech-language pathologists assess and treat speech and language development, disorders and swallowing difficulties. A Master's degree is required.

**SURGICAL TECHNOLOGISTS** assist with patient care and related services under the supervision of a registered nurse in hospital operating rooms. They are part of the operating room team that sets up the surgical instruments and supplies for a patient's procedure. They assist in preparing the patient for surgery and hand surgical instruments to the surgeon during an operation. Successful surgical technologists say that the best way to become a surgical tech is by earning a degree or certificate through a program accredited by the Commission



on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES). Surgical technology degree programs usually take nine months to two years to complete, depending on the school, and are offered by community colleges, vocational schools and universities.

**UNIT CLERKS** are assigned to either inpatient or outpatient units where there is daily contact with patients. Unit clerks screen communications by providing relevant information to appropriate personnel, giving information on patients' conditions, and directing visitors to the appropriate locations.

They also process physicians' orders by recording written orders in charts, kardex, flag sheets, or directly into a computer file after review by a registered nurse, and by filling out medication tickets and pharmacy requisitions. In addition, unit clerks make emergency calls, receive new admissions, prepare and maintain patient charts, maintain a daily log and clinic log, and perform various clerical duties as required. Unit clerks might also be required to pick up and deliver supplies and records for the unit. Unit clerks are required to work holidays, weekends, and day, evening, and night shifts on a rotating basis.



# Health Occupation Education Programs in Nassau/Suffolk Counties

## Admitting Representative

Institution: High School Graduate

## Audiologist

Institution: Hofstra University

Award: M.A.

## Biomedical Technicians

Institution: SUNY-Farmingdale

Award: A.A.S. or A.A.S. in Electronics

## Cardiac Monitor Technician/ Telemetry Technician

Institution: High School Graduate

Award: EKG Training

## Cardiovascular Technologist

Institution: Molloy College

Award: A.A.S.

## Clinical Laboratory Technologists

Institutions: SUNY Stony Brook University; LIU C.W. Post Campus; SUNY Farmingdale

Award: B.S.

## Clinical Laboratory Technicians

Institutions: SUNY Farmingdale; Nassau Community College

Award: A.A.S.

## Cytotechnologist

Institution: LIU C.W. Post Campus

Award: B.S.

## Diabetes Counselor

Award: B.S. plus certificate

## Diagnostic Medical Sonographer/Ultrasound Technologist

Institution: Ultrasound Diagnostic School

Award: Certificate

Institution: SUNY Downstate Medical Center – Brooklyn

Award: B.A.

Institution: Western Suffolk BOCES

Award: Certificate

Institution: LIU – Brooklyn

Award: Certificate

Institution: New York University

Award: A.A.S.

Institution: Rochester Institute of Technology

Award: Certificate, B.A.

Institution: Sanford Brown Institute

Award: Diploma

## Dialysis Technician

Institutions: Western Suffolk BOCES; Nassau BOCES

Award: Certificate

## Dietetic Technician

Institution: Suffolk Community College

Award: A.A.S.

## Dietitian (registered)

Institution: LIU C.W. Post Campus

Award: B.S.

## Echocardiography Technician (Cardiac Sonographers)

Institution: Molloy College

A.A.S.

## EEG Technician

Institution: University of Michigan

Award: Certificate

## EKG Technician

Institution: Stony Brook University; Eastern Suffolk BOCES

Award: Certificate

## Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic

Institution: Stony Brook University

Award: Certificate

## Histologic Technician

Institution: SUNY Cobleskill

Award: A.A.S.

## Histologic Technologist

Institution: SUNY Cobleskill

Award: B.S. plus one year Histology Program

## Home Health Aide

Institutions: Eastern Suffolk BOCES; Western Suffolk BOCES; Nassau BOCES

Award: Certificate

## Invasive Cardiology Technologist

Institution: Molloy College

Award: A.A.S.

### Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

Institutions: Eastern Suffolk BOCES;  
Western Suffolk BOCES  
Award: Certificate

### Medical Assistant

Institutions: Eastern Suffolk BOCES;  
Nassau BOCES;  
Technical Schools  
Award: Certificate

### Medical Records Technician/ Coder

Institutions: Eastern Suffolk BOCES;  
Nassau BOCES; Western  
Suffolk BOCES; Suffolk  
Community College  
Award: A.A.S

### Mental Health Technician/ Mental Health Therapy Aide

Institutions: High School Graduate;  
Eastern Suffolk BOCES;  
Nassau BOCES; Western  
Suffolk BOCES  
Award: Certificate as nurse  
assistant

### Nuclear Medicine Technologist

Institution: VAMC- Northport  
Award: B.S., M.S.  
Institution: LIU – C.W. Post Campus  
Award: B.S.  
Institution: Farmingdale State  
University  
Award: B.S  
Institution: Molloy College  
Award: A.A.S..

### Nurse Aide (NA)

Institutions: Eastern Suffolk BOCES;  
Nassau BOCES; Western  
Suffolk BOCES  
Award: Certificate

### Nurse Practitioner

Institutions: SUNY Stony Brook;  
Adelphi University;  
Molloy College  
Award: M.S.

### Occupational Therapist

Institution: Touro College  
Award: B.S., M.A.  
Institution: Stony Brook University  
Award: B.S., M.S.  
Institution: New York Institute of  
Technology

### Occupational Therapy Assistant

Institution: Suffolk Community  
College  
Award: A.A.S.

### Pharmacist

Institutions: St. Johns University;  
SUNY Albany; Arnold &  
Marie Schwartz College  
of Pharmacy LIU Brook-  
lyn Campus  
Award: Pharm.D.

### Pharmacy Technician

Institutions: Eastern Suffolk BOCES;  
Nassau BOCES  
Award: Certificate

### Phlebotomist/Phlebotomy Technician

Institutions: Eastern Suffolk BOCES;  
Western Suffolk BOCES;  
Stony Brook University  
Award: Certificate

### Physical Therapist

Institution: SUNY – Stony Brook  
Award: Doctorate  
Institution: Touro College  
Award: B.S/Doctorate  
Institution: St. Johns University  
Award: B.S.

Institution: New York Institute of  
Technology  
Award: M.S.

### Physical Therapist Assistant

Institutions: Nassau Community  
College; Suffolk County  
College  
Award: A.A.S.  
Institution: Nassau BOCES

### Physician

Institutions: SUNY – Stony Brook;  
Hofstra University  
Award: M.D.  
Institution: New York College of  
Osteopathic Medicine  
Award: D.O.

### Physician's Assistant

Institutions: Hofstra University;  
SUNY – Stony Brook;  
Touro College  
Award: B.S.  
Institution: York Institute of  
Technology  
Award: B.S./M.S.

### Polysomnography Technician/ Technologist

Institution: Stony Brook University  
Award: Certificate

### Psychologist

Institutions: SUNY Stony Brook;  
Adelphi University  
Award: Ph.D.

### Radiation Therapy Technologist/Radiation Therapist

Institutions: Molloy College; Nassau  
Community College  
Award: A.A.S.

### **Radiologic Technologist**

Institutions: Molloy College; Nassau Community College  
Award: A.A.S.  
Institution: LIU C.W. Post  
Award: B.S.

### **Recreational Therapist**

Institution: St. Joseph's College  
Award: B.S.

### **Registered Nurse (RN)**

Institutions: Nassau Community College; SUNY – Farmingdale  
Award: A.S.  
Institution: Suffolk Community College – Brentwood and Seldon  
Award: A.A.S.  
Institution: Adelphi University  
Award: B.S., M.S., PhD.  
Institutions: LIU – C.W. Post; SUNY – Stony Brook  
Award: B.S.  
Institution: Molloy College  
Award: B.S., M.S.  
Institution: St. Joseph's College – Suffolk Campus  
Award: B.S. (only transitioning)  
Institution: New York Institute of Technology  
Award: B.S., M.S.

### **Rehabilitation Counselor**

Institution: Hofstra University  
Award: M.S./ Certificate  
Institutions: St. Johns University; Hunter College  
Award: M.S.  
Institution: St. Joseph's College  
Award: Certificate

### **Respiratory Therapist**

Institutions: Nassau Community College; Molloy College  
Award: A.A.S.  
Institution: SUNY Stony Brook  
Award: B.S.

### **Social Worker**

Institution: Adelphi University  
Award: B.S., M.S.W., D.S.W.  
Institution: Molloy College  
Award: B.A.  
Institution: SUNY – Stony Brook  
Award: B.S., M.S.W.

### **Speech-Language Pathologist**

Institution: Adelphi University  
Award: B.A., M.S., D.A.  
Institution: Hofstra University  
Award: B.A., M.A.  
Institution: Molloy College  
Award: B.S.

### **Surgical Technologist**

Institution: Nassau Community College  
Award: A.A.S.  
Institution: Western Suffolk BOCES  
Award: Certificate

### **Unit Clerk**

Institution: High School Diploma



# Health Care Careers by Category

There are a variety of positions available in the health care field that would meet your professional and personal goals. Some positions involve direct patient care and others more clinical care and technical knowledge. Still others are found in administrative and clerical and related support departments throughout hospitals and other health care settings. The list below groups health care positions by category. Refer to the associated page number for a description of each position.

## Laboratory and Technical Services

- 1 Biomedical Technician
- 1 Cardiovascular Technologist
- 2 Clinical Laboratory Technologist
- 2 Clinical Laboratory Technician
- 2 Cytotechnologist
- 4 Dialysis Technician
- 4 Echocardiography Technician (Cardiac Sonographer)
- 4 EEG Technician
- 4 EEG Technologist
- 4 EKG Technician
- 5 Histologic Technician
- 5 Histologic Technologist
- 9 Pharmacist
- 9 Pharmacy Technician
- 10 Phlebotomist/Phlebotomy Technician
- 11 Polysomnography Technician/Technologist

## Mental Health Services

- 7 Mental Health Technician
- 7 Mental Health Therapy Aide

- 11 Psychologist
- 13 Rehabilitation Counselor
- 14 Social Worker

## Patient Services

- 1 Admitting Representative
- 6 Invasive Cardiology Technologist
- 6 Medical Assistant
- 7 Medical Records Technician and Coder
- 15 Unit Clerk

## Nursing/Patient Care

- 1 Cardiac Monitor Technician (Telemetry Technician)
- 4 Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic
- 5 Home Health Aide
- 6 Licensed Practical Nurse
- 8 Nurse Aide
- 8 Nurse Practitioner
- 10 Physician
- 11 Physician's Assistant
- 13 Registered Nurse
- 14 Surgical Technologist

## Nutrition

- 3 Diabetes Counselor
- 4 Dietetic Technician
- 4 Dietician (registered)

## Radiology

- 3 Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (Ultrasound Technologist)
- 8 Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- 12 Radiation Therapist
- 12 Radiation Therapy Technologist
- 12 Radiologic Technologist

## Therapy Services

- 1 Audiologist
- 8 Occupational Therapist
- 8 Occupational Therapy Assistant
- 10 Physical Therapist
- 10 Physical Therapy Assistant
- 12 Recreational Therapist
- 14 Respiratory Therapist
- 14 Respiratory Therapy Technician
- 14 Speech-Language Pathologist



# Alphabetical Listing of Health Care Jobs

Refer to the associated page number for a description of each position.

- 1 Admitting Representative
- 1 Audiologist
- 1 Biomedical Technician
- 1 Cardiac Monitor Technician (Telemetry Technician)
- 1 Cardiovascular Technologist
- 2 Clinical Laboratory Technologist
- 2 Clinical Laboratory Technician
- 2 Cytotechnologist
- 3 Diabetes Counselor
- 3 Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (Ultrasound Technologist)
- 4 Dialysis Technician
- 4 Dietetic Technician
- 4 Dietitian (registered)
- 4 Echocardiography Technician (Cardiac Sonographer)
- 4 EEG Technician
- 4 EEG Technologist
- 4 EKG Technician
- 4 Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic
- 5 Histologic Technician
- 5 Histologic Technologist
- 5 Home Health Aide
- 6 Invasive Cardiology Technologist
- 6 Licensed Practical Nurse
- 6 Medical Assistant
- 7 Medical Records Technician and Coder
- 7 Mental Health Technician
- 7 Mental Health Therapy Aide
- 8 Nuclear Medicine Technologist
- 8 Nurse Aide
- 8 Nurse Practitioner
- 8 Occupational Therapist
- 8 Occupational Therapy Assistant
- 9 Pharmacist
- 9 Pharmacy Technician
- 10 Phlebotomist/Phlebotomy Technician
- 10 Physical Therapist
- 10 Physical Therapist Assistant
- 10 Physician
- 11 Physician's Assistant
- 11 Polysomnography Technician/Technologist
- 11 Psychologist
- 12 Radiation Therapist
- 12 Radiation Therapy Technologist
- 12 Radiologic Technologist
- 12 Recreational Therapist
- 13 Registered Nurse
- 13 Rehabilitation Counselor
- 14 Respiratory Therapist
- 14 Respiratory Therapy Technician
- 14 Social Worker
- 14 Speech-Language Pathologist
- 14 Surgical Technologist
- 15 Unit Clerk



# Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council Member Institutions

## **BROOKHAVEN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

[101 Hospital Road, Patchogue, NY 11772; www.bmhmc.org](http://www.bmhmc.org)

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Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center is a 321-bed community hospital, serving the needs of 28 towns and villages throughout Suffolk County. Located in East Patchogue, Brookhaven Memorial Hospital provides leading edge health care solutions through a focused and compassionate team in technologically advanced facilities, including a certified Level II Trauma Center. The medical center is comprised of the main campus, two community multi-disciplinary health centers, The Swezey Medical Pavilion in downtown Patchogue, which accommodates the Hemodialysis Program, Home Care and Hospice Services, as well as an off-site ambulatory Women’s Imaging Center, Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine, Sleep Center, Family Medicine Center, and the affiliated Total Joint Replacement Services, P.C. Brookhaven Hospital is also working to train the doctors of tomorrow through its newly established Graduate Medical Education Program. The Family Medicine Residency Program at Brookhaven offers students a state-of-the-art learning facility and an experienced and diverse faculty with a keen interest in the academics of medicine. Brookhaven Memorial Hospital is dedicated to delivering accessible, high-quality health services in a focused, caring and teaching environment, while providing health advocacy for the community and people it serves.

## **EASTERN LONG ISLAND HOSPITAL**

[201 Manor Place, Greenport, NY 11944; \(631\) 477-1000; www.elih.org](http://www.elih.org)

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Committed to delivering excellence in patient care since 1905, Eastern Long Island Hospital (ELIH) is Suffolk County’s first voluntary hospital. ELIH is an 80-bed community hospital with a strong history of neighbors caring for neighbors. ELIH is located on the North Fork of Long Island in a seaside community. Patient services at ELIH encompass medical/surgical care, critical care, emergency medicine, pediatric emergency medicine, pain management, and behavioral health services including psychiatry, detox, addiction rehabilitation and outpatient therapies. Every staff member takes great pride in delivering that extra measure of caring and is dedicated to “putting CARE back in HealthCARE.” With over ten decades of experience, ELIH has emerged into a national leader for quality care and patient safety. Eastern Long Island Hospital is a member of the East End Health Alliance.

## **FRANKLIN HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER**

[900 Franklin Avenue, Valley Stream, NY 11580; \(516\) 256-6000; www.fhmc.org](http://www.fhmc.org)

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Franklin Hospital is a 305-bed community hospital that offers a comprehensive array of programs and services to patients from western Nassau County and southeast Queens. Franklin provides a wide range of medical services including: cardiology, oncology, psychiatry, geriatrics, critical care, ambulatory surgery

and interventional radiology. State-of-the-art operating suites provide capabilities for a variety of specialty surgical procedures including minimally invasive orthopedic and spine surgery. The hospital's emergency department is staffed by physicians board-certified in emergency medicine. Franklin's Pain Management Center offers the latest techniques and medical options to diagnose and treat patients with acute and chronic pain problems. Specially trained technicians at the Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Center are experts in wound care and use the most up-to-date treatments available. Hospice Care Network at Franklin is Nassau County's first dedicated hospice and palliative care center in a hospital setting. An adjacent facility, the 120-bed Orzac Center for Extended Care and Rehabilitation, offers long- and short-term skilled nursing and rehabilitation as well as a medically-oriented Adult Day Healthcare Program. Franklin Hospital is a member of the North Shore-LIJ Health System.

### **GLEN COVE HOSPITAL**

[101 Saint Andrews Lane, Glen Cove, New York 11542; \(516\) 674-7300; www.northshorelij.com](#)

Glen Cove Hospital is a 265-bed facility that provides excellent medical and surgical care. The hospital is home to the internationally known Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Institute. The hospital also has a highly successful Family Practice Residency Program, which has trained primary care physicians from throughout the United States. Community House, a division of Substance Abuse Services at Glen Cove Hospital, provides inpatient and outpatient services with some of the latest treatment options for psychological and substance abuse problems. Glen Cove's Emergency Department was recently ranked as one of the best in patient satisfaction among hospitals nationwide, according to Press Ganey Associates, an independent satisfaction and improvement service.

### **GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER**

[1000 Montauk Highway, West Islip, NY 11975; \(631\) 376-4444; www.good-samaritan-hospital.org.](#)

Founded in 1959, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center is a 537-bed facility, including 100 nursing home beds. Good Samaritan's dedicated staff is committed to providing the highest quality of health care services to its patients. A Joint Commission-accredited, Magnet-designated hospital, the hospital was named one of New York's Safest Hospitals by Health Grades and received a "5 Star" rating in the State of the Hospital Industry Handbook. It has also received recognition from the American College of Radiology, the American Diabetes Association and the Commission on Cancer. Good Samaritan is a New York State Department of Health-designated Stroke Center, and in 2007 was selected by the New York State Department of Health to be one of the few community hospitals to perform primary angioplasty on an elective basis. Good Samaritan is a member of Catholic Health Services of Long Island.

### **HUNTINGTON HOSPITAL**

[270 Park Avenue, Huntington, NY 11743; \(631\) 351-2000; www.hunthosp.org](#)

Huntington Hospital is a 408-bed, full-service, not-for-profit, community hospital, serving Huntington Township and the surrounding communities since 1916. It is staffed by more than 1,700 employees and nearly 600 local physicians. Huntington Hospital serves patients of every age, from newborns through geriatrics,

and provides a full array of services, with a special emphasis on care of the cancer patient, cardiac care, maternity and neonatal care, and specialized surgical procedures including complex orthopedic surgery. It was Long Island's first community hospital to be awarded Magnet status by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a recognition of nursing excellence reserved for only 110 hospitals nationwide. Huntington Hospital has been designated by the New York State Department of Health as a Stroke Center. Its cancer program has been certified as a Comprehensive Community Cancer Center by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer. Huntington Hospital's Dolan Family Health Center is Long Island's only free-standing, charitably-supported, hospital-owned health care center for the medically indigent. In 2007, the Dolan Center logged more than 30,000 patient visits. Huntington Hospital is a member of the North Shore-LIJ Health System.

### **LONG BEACH MEDICAL CENTER**

[455 East Bay Drive, Long Beach, NY 11561; \(516\) 897-1000; www.LBMC.org](http://www.LBMC.org)

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Serving the south shore communities of Long Beach, Lido Beach, Point Lookout, Atlantic Beach, Island Park and surrounding communities, LBMC is a comprehensive health care organization which includes a 162-bed community teaching hospital, a 200-bed long-term care facility, outpatient medical and behavioral health clinics, a certified home health agency and a long-term home health program. A New York State Department of Health-designated Stroke Center, LBMC offers a full range of medical and surgical services with an emphasis on physical rehabilitation, wound care, mental health, home health services and geriatrics. In addition, it is the clinical campus for the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, sponsoring one of the largest and most progressive post-graduate family medicine training programs on Long Island and has recently been approved for the first Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation training program on the East Coast. It is also the clinical campus of the New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

### **JOHN T. MATHER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

[75 North Country Road, Port Jefferson, NY 11777; www.matherhospital.org](http://www.matherhospital.org)

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John T. Mather Memorial Hospital opened its doors in 1929 with 54 beds, as the first not-for-profit community hospital in the Town of Brookhaven. Today, John T. Mather Memorial Hospital is an accredited 248-bed, non-profit community hospital dedicated to providing a wide spectrum of health care services of the highest quality, in a cost effective manner, to the residents of Suffolk County. It is known for its commitment to providing compassionate and respectful care to each and every patient. In 2007, the hospital served 12,510 inpatients, had 41,402 emergency room and 79,193 ambulatory visits, and performed 16,096 surgeries. Signature services include The Fortunato Breast Health Center, The Men's Prostate Health Center, The Weiss Center for Pain Management, The Wound Care Center, The Chest Pain Emergency Room, Adolescent and Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Units, Psychiatric Partial Hospitalization Programs, Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Unit, and the Sleep Disorders Center.

## MERCY MEDICAL CENTER

1000 North Village Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11571; (516) 705-2525;

[www.mercymedicalcenter.chsli.org](http://www.mercymedicalcenter.chsli.org)

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Founded in 1913 by the nursing sisters of the Congregation of the Infant Jesus, Mercy Medical Center is a 375-bed medical complex on 20 acres housing some of the most advanced medical technology in New York State. Highly respected for expertise in mother/baby services, orthopedic surgery, endoscopy, cardiology, neurosurgery, cancer care, acute inpatient rehabilitation, and behavioral health services, Mercy provides 24-hour emergency and trauma care, is a New York State Department of Health-designated Stroke Center, a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence designated by the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, the Nassau County home of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and a safe haven for unwanted newborns. Mercy has a medical staff of over 700 physicians, some 1,700 employees and one of Long Island's newest acute-care hospital facilities, the \$41 million North Pavilion equipped with state-of-the-art technology and the latest features in hospital design to promote patient safety and comfort. Mercy is a member of Catholic Health Services of Long Island.

## NASSAU UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554; [www.ncmc.edu](http://www.ncmc.edu)

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The Nassau Health Care Corporation, comprised of Nassau University Medical Center, the A. Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility in Uniondale, and our six community health centers, provides critical health services to all residents of Nassau County, but particularly to those who are most in need. One of only four Level I Trauma Centers on Long Island, Nassau University Medical Center, a 530-bed tertiary care teaching hospital, is part of a 1,200-bed health care system, with a 589-bed A. Holly Patterson skilled nursing facility and six community health centers located throughout Nassau County. Annually, the safety net hospital treats over 72,000 people in its emergency rooms and another 270,000 people receive care in over 80 specialties. Some of its outstanding, highly specialized services include a self-contained Burn Center, the region's largest Hyperbaric Chamber, Breast Imaging, Eye Center, Dentistry and Oral Surgery Center, AIDS Center, Cardiac Catheterization Lab, new MRI Facility, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and a department of orthopedics specializing in minimally invasive surgery. Founded in 1935, NUMC serves as a major teaching campus of the Health Science Center of the State University of New York at Stony Brook and is a member of North Shore LIJ Health System. With a staff of over 3,400, Nassau Health Care Corporation serves as a center for teaching and learning and encourages research and innovation, continually striving to improve patient care. As Long Island's top Level I Trauma Center, NUMC treats over half of all serious trauma in Nassau County in five separate emergency rooms: medical emergencies, surgical emergencies, pediatric emergencies, a separate gynecology suite, and an emergency ambulatory unit.

### **NEW ISLAND HOSPITAL**

[4295 Hempstead Turnpike, Bethpage, NY 11714; \(516\) 579-6000; www.newislandhospital.org](http://www.newislandhospital.org)

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New Island Hospital consists of three buildings located on approximately 10 acres in the southeastern corner of Nassau County. The hospital's emergency department treats almost 40,000 patients a year from the surrounding communities. Outpatient services include expertise in endoscopy, ambulatory surgery, balance disorders, sleep medicine, vascular surgery, swallowing, speech and voice disorders, and wound healing and hyperbaric medicine. Inpatient units include critical care, hospice and chronic ventilator care. New Island Hospital is an affiliate member of the North Shore-LIJ Health System.

### **NORTH SHORE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, THE SANDRA ATLAS BASS CAMPUS**

[300 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030; \(516\) 562-0100; www.northshorelij.com](http://www.northshorelij.com)

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North Shore University Hospital is one of the cornerstones of the North Shore-LIJ Health System, as well as an academic campus for the New York University School of Medicine and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. The hospital has 788 beds, and a staff of more than 3,000 specialty and subspecialty physicians. It offers the most advanced care in all medical and surgical specialties, including cardiovascular services, cancer care, orthopedics, maternal-fetal medicine, pediatrics and the most advanced neuroscience capabilities in the region, including the Harvey Cushing Institutes of Neuroscience's Movement Disorders Institute, Brain Tumor Institute, Brain Aneurysm Center, Headache Center and Spine Center as well as a state-designated stroke center. The Sandra Atlas Bass Cardiology Center is a national demonstration site for the latest equipment and procedures, including one of the New York area's first 64-slice computed tomography scans. The Don Monti Cancer Center cares for more cancer patients than any other Long Island hospital. Specialties include bone marrow transplants, geriatric oncology, breast cancer treatment and gynecological surgery. The Schwartz Ambulatory Surgery Center performs 10,000 surgical procedures annually. Designated a Level I Trauma Center, NSUH is also recognized as a unique provider of services for HIV/AIDS patients.

### **PECONIC BAY MEDICAL CENTER**

[1300 Roanoke Avenue, Riverhead, NY 11901; \(631\) 548-6000; www.pbmedicalcenter.org](http://www.pbmedicalcenter.org)

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Established in 1951 as Central Suffolk Hospital, Peconic Bay Medical Center is a not-for-profit community health care organization providing a variety of services and programs, including an acute-care hospital, skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility, certified home health care agency and outpatient physical therapy center. PBMC is a New York State Department of Health-designated Stroke Center. The Richard Rubenstein, MD Center for Bariatric Surgery has received the "Center of Excellence" designation from the American Society of Bariatric Surgery. Through its Hamptons Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Institute, Peconic Bay offers a full range of orthopedic care including joint repair and replacement surgery, shoulder surgery and sports medicine. Its neurosurgery program includes spinal surgery led by Dr. Raphael Davis, professor and chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Stony Brook University Medical Center. PBMC's emergency and radiology departments both are staffed by Stony Brook medical specialists. Peconic Bay Medical Center is a member of the East End Health Alliance.

## **PLAINVIEW HOSPITAL**

[888 Old Country Road, Plainview, NY 11803; \(516\) 719-3000; www.northshorelij.com](http://www.northshorelij.com)

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Plainview Hospital is an acute care community hospital with 239 beds. The hospital treats patients with a wide range of medical, surgical, pediatric, obstetric and gynecological conditions. Plainview Hospital has an active same-day surgery program, and an extremely busy emergency department, which features a Chest Pain Emergency Room. The latter is located in a separate area where patients with cardiac complaints are assessed immediately. Plainview Hospital is also the site of one of the Don Monti Cancer Centers.

## **SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL**

[240 Meeting House Lane, Southampton, NY 11968; \(631\) 726-8200; www.southamptonhospital.org](http://www.southamptonhospital.org)

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Founded in 1909, Southampton Hospital is staffed by more than 240 physicians, dentists, and allied health professionals representing 48 medical specialties. Recognized by HealthGrades in the top five percent of hospitals nationwide for patient safety and accredited by the Joint Commission, Southampton Hospital offers a diverse array of clinical services ranging from primary medical care to specialized surgical procedures. Its emergency department is the sole provider of emergency care on Long Island's South Fork. Staffed 24/7 with physicians board-certified in emergency medicine, the department has been recognized as a "best practice" facility in the timely administration of "clot-busting" thrombolytic drugs and has the most sophisticated, noninvasive cardiac diagnostic and monitoring technology available. The hospital's Breast Health Center offers comprehensive breast health care and support. In addition to its services located in the hospital, satellite care centers serve South Fork communities in radiology, primary care, laboratory, sports and physical therapy, and cardio-pulmonary rehabilitation. The hospital also offers medical care at its Shinnecock Indian Health Clinic, Southampton Hospital Regional Dialysis Center in Hampton Bays, and David E. Rogers, MD Center for HIV/AIDS Care. Southampton Hospital is a member of the East End Health Alliance.

## **SOUTHSIDE HOSPITAL**

[301 East Main Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706; \(631\) 968-3000; www.northshorelij.org](http://www.northshorelij.org)

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Southside Hospital offers world-class medical resources right at home. Southside Hospital has more cardiac catheterization experience than any other community hospital on Long Island and recently opened two new cardiac catheterization laboratories and is set to open its new electrophysiology lab in the fourth quarter of 2008. Its Institute of Neuroscience, a member of the Harvey Cushing Institute of Neuroscience, is home to the only New York State-certified hospital with an adult inpatient brain injury unit on Long Island and also includes a pain management program, spine program and neurosurgery ICU. As well, Southside Hospital offers exceptional physical medicine and rehabilitation on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. Southside Hospital is also home to a New York State Department of Health-designated Stroke Center and advanced radiation therapy is available for outpatients and inpatients in its Frank Gulden Radiation Oncology Center. Additionally, Southside Hospital offers a Maternity Center, Same-Day Surgery Center, Vascular Institute, Center for Wound Healing, Bloodless Medicine and Surgery Program as well as an emergency department staffed with board-certified emergency medicine physicians. Southside is a member of the North Shore-LIJ Health System.

### **SOUTH NASSAU COMMUNITIES HOSPITAL**

One Healthy Way, Oceanside, NY 11572; (877) 768-8462877-768-8462) (877-768-8462);  
[www.southnassau.org](http://www.southnassau.org)

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One of the region's largest hospitals with 441 beds, more than 820 physicians and 2,200 employees, the hospital is an acute care, not-for-profit teaching hospital that provides state-of-the-art care in cardiac, oncologic, orthopedic, bariatric, pain management, mental health and emergency services. In addition to its extensive outpatient specialty centers, South Nassau is a NYS Department of Health-designated Stroke Center, boasts Long Island's first Gamma Knife and is one of five hospitals in New York without an open heart surgery program that is permitted to perform angioplasty in an emergency or as an elective procedure. It is recognized as a "Center of Excellence" by the American Society of Bariatric Surgery, is a recipient of the Silver designation for heart care and Bronze designation for stroke care from the American Heart Association's "Get with the Guidelines Program," and is included in HealthGrades' listing in the top ten percent of hospitals nationwide in stroke care. South Nassau is a partner in the Winthrop-South Nassau University Health System.

### **ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA MEDICAL CENTER**

50 Route 25A, Smithtown, NY 11787; (631) 870-3444; [www.stcatherinemedicalcenter.org](http://www.stcatherinemedicalcenter.org)

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St. Catherine of Siena is a 311-bed, not-for-profit, community-based hospital offering superior care in areas such as bariatrics, breast health, primary angioplasty (C-Port Program), palliative care and psychiatric services. The hospital's Endoscopy Unit is the largest in Suffolk County and its state-of-the-art Sleep Disorders Center provides evaluation, testing, and diagnostic services. Known for its obstetrics services, St. Catherine offers a Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for the youngest of patients. The hospital is also a New York State Department of Health-designated Stroke Center and a Mentor Hospital for Best Practice in decreasing central line infections. The Medical Center's campus includes a 240-bed nursing home, a 298-unit senior housing facility, and a medical office building. St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center is a member of Catholic Health Services of Long Island and is devoted to providing advanced health care in an environment of compassion to its patients and their families.

### **ST. CHARLES HOSPITAL**

200 Belle Terre Road, Port Jefferson, NY 11777; (631) 474-6000; [www.stcharleshospital.chsli.org](http://www.stcharleshospital.chsli.org)

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St. Charles is a 231-bed, not-for-profit hospital with centers of excellence in orthopedics, obstetrics, and rehabilitation. In addition, St. Charles offers services in pediatrics, including Long Island's only pediatric inpatient traumatic brain injury unit, neonatology, radiology, neurosurgery, emergency medicine, diabetes education, community re-entry, general medical and surgical services, video-EEG monitoring, a nationally certified Sleep Disorders Center and a Primary Stroke Center certified by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. St. Charles Hospital is a member of Catholic Health Services of Long Island.

## **ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL**

[100 Port Washington Blvd., Roslyn, NY 11576; \(888\) HeartNY; www.stfrancisheartcenter.com](#)

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St. Francis Heart Center is New York State's only specialty designated cardiac center and is the busiest heart center in the Northeast. A recognized leader in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cardiac disease, St. Francis Hospital performs more cardiac surgery and interventional cardiac procedures than any other hospital in New York State. In 2007, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked St. Francis as one of America's Best Hospitals in heart surgery, digestive disorders, geriatrics, and ear, nose and throat disorders. The hospital has also earned the prestigious Magnet designation for excellence in nursing services and was ranked the best hospital on Long Island for cardiac care by New York Magazine. St. Francis Hospital is a member of Catholic Health Services of Long Island.

## **STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**

[Nicolls Road and Health Sciences Drive, Stony Brook, NY 11799; \(631\) 444-4000; www.stonybrookmedicalcenter.org](#)

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The only academic medical center on Long Island is comprised of the Stony Brook University School of Medicine and Stony Brook University Hospital, which is the only tertiary care hospital and Level 1 Trauma Center in Suffolk County. With 522 beds and 5,100 employees, it is the largest hospital in Suffolk County. The Heart Center performs the only open-heart surgery in Suffolk and the Cancer Center and Cerebrovascular Center attract patients from throughout the region with cutting edge diagnostic and treatment facilities. Stony Brook has Long Island's first kidney transplantation program and initiated the nation's first Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis Center. The hospital is also the regional referral center for trauma, perinatal and neonatal intensive care, burns, bone marrow and stem cell transplantation, cystic fibrosis, pediatric/adult AIDS, and is the regional resource center for emergency management. Stony Brook's stroke program is certified by the Joint Commission and the New York State Department of Health and Stony Brook is home to the Cody Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

## **SYOSSET HOSPITAL**

[221 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, NY 11791; www.northshorelij.com](#)

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Syosset Hospital is a full-service community hospital with an inpatient medical-surgical unit and intensive care unit. In addition, it offers specialized surgical services in a state-of-the-art facility with the most advanced surgical technology available. The hospital features an emergency department and a Center for Surgical Specialties, with highly skilled surgeons using the latest advancements in equipment and technology. Syosset Hospital is one of the foremost centers in the region for minimally-invasive laparoscopic procedures, as well as laser and other advanced surgical and endoscopic technologies. The Davis Vision Eye Surgery Center is a unique center designed to treat patients in need of interventional pain procedures. Syosset also has a 20-bed short term psychiatric unit.

### **WINTHROP-UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

[259 First Street, Mineola, NY 11501; \(516\) 663-0333; www.winthrop.org](http://www.winthrop.org)

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A 591-bed teaching hospital that is a major regional healthcare resource, Winthrop University offers a full complement of inpatient and outpatient services delivered by an outstanding medical staff using the most sophisticated medical technology available. The hospital also features extensive medical education and research programs. Winthrop has earned many prestigious accreditations, including designations as a New York State Department of Health Stroke Center, New York State Regional Perinatal Center and Regional Trauma Center, and is known across the State for its excellent outcomes in interventional cardiology and cardiac surgery. In addition to the Institute for Heart Care, Winthrop has highly specialized institutes dedicated to Cancer Care, Digestive Disorders, Family Care including Women's and Children's Health Services, Lung Care and Neurosciences, and is home to the New York Metro area's only CyberKnife Radiosurgery Center. The hospital's mission is shaped by the basic value of providing "Care without compromise."

### **VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER**

[79 Middleville Road, Northport, NY 11768; \(631\) 261-4400 or \(800\) 551-3996; www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

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Northport VA Medical Center consists of a full-service hospital, extended care facility, and outpatient pavilion. The Northport VAMC also has Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) in Plainview, Patchogue, and Westhampton, and four mental health "satellite" clinics in Islip, Lindenhurst, Lynbrook, and Riverhead, serving Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island. Northport VAMC is a tertiary care facility classified as a Clinical Referral Level 1 Facility. A teaching hospital, it provides a full range of patient care services, with state-of-the-art technology, as well as education and research. Comprehensive health care is provided through primary care, tertiary care, and long-term care in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, oncology, dentistry, geriatrics, and extended care. The Northport VAMC is a part of Network 3, which includes facilities in Bronx, Brooklyn, Castle Point, Manhattan, Montrose, St. Albans (Queens) in New York, and East Orange and Lyons in New Jersey. Northport VAMC's Rehabilitation and Extended Care Center is a 170-bed facility and offers extended care rehabilitation, psycho-geriatric care, and general nursing home care.





*The collective voice of Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals*

1383 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY  
SUITE 26  
HAUPPAUGE, NY 11788