

T H E

J O B

C E N T E R

PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIAN



Psychiatrists determine treatment plans for patients who are suffering from mental illnesses or emotional disturbances, often prescribing medications as part of a patient's treatment plan.

A psychiatric technician's job is to provide care to mentally ill patients. There are many places that psychiatric technicians can work including hospitals and mental health clinics. Psychiatric technicians have several job duties they must perform while on the job. They help patients with their personal hygiene and administer oral medications and hypodermic injections. They take and record measures of patients' general physical condition, observe patients' behavior patterns and report observations to medical staff, issue medications, and maintain records in accordance with specified procedures.

Psychiatric technicians must sometimes lead prescribed individual or group therapy sessions as part of specific therapeutic procedures or intervene to restrain violent or

potentially violent or suicidal patients by verbal or physical means. They may also contact patients' relatives to arrange family conferences and complete initial admittance forms for new patients.

In addition to on-the-job duties, psychiatric technicians must also have knowledge of human behavior and performance, mental processes, psychological research methods, and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders. They must have knowledge of information and techniques needed to rehabilitate physical and mental ailments, knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat injuries, diseases, and deformities and a general knowledge of administrative and clerical procedures and systems.

<http://www.occupationalinfo.org/onet/32931.html#CROSSWALKS>

Q&A

Q: Where are Psychiatric Technicians employed?

A: Psychiatric Technicians work in a variety of settings including inpatient psychiatric hospitals, community general hospitals and health centers, group homes, shelters for battered women, correctional facilities, social service agencies, child and adolescent centers and halfway houses.

Q: How long is the training to become a Psychiatric Technician?

A: Locally, at MTI, the psychiatric technician program is 450 hours and can be completed in 6 months.

Q: Who are the other members on the Psychiatric Technician's team?

A: The other team members of the medical staff working with psychiatric technicians include psychiatrists, physicians, nurses, other psychiatric technicians, and patients' family members.

SKILLS REQUIRED

Psychiatric Technicians need empathy, sensitivity, good listening skills, and a capacity for analytic and inductive thinking.

WHERE/HOW TO GET TRAINING

Schooling

Psychiatric technicians can receive training from either technical schools or community colleges. Most psychiatric technician programs require on-the-job training working with mentally ill patients. Students will learn and have a basic understanding of mental health/illness theory, communication skills, crisis intervention, psychotropic medications, substance abuse, and employment skills.

Financial Aid

Grants, scholarships, loans, and work/study programs are available for post secondary. For most of this aid, prospective students must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, which is available from high school guidance offices and higher education financial aid offices. For more information on federal financial aid programs, or to apply electronically, visit the U.S. Department of Education's Website at <http://www.ed.gov>.



For more information on federal financial aid programs, call (800) 4FEDAID

FUTURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Local survey results show that there is a significant demand for

psychiatric technicians in Manatee County.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Psychiatric Technicians work mostly indoors and wear a uniform. They work closely with patients and a

team of medical professional.

RESOURCES - HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

BOOK:

Assessment And Diagnosis of Personality Disorders
Armand W. Loranger, Aleksandar Jancar, and Norman Sartorius, Editors

ONLINE:

www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org

GENERAL:

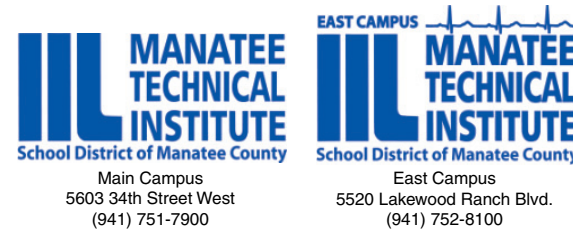
American Psychiatric Association
Office Of Education
1400 K St. N.W.
Washington, Dc 20005
www.Psych.Org

LOCAL: Career Counselor, Ronai Krugh, 941-752-8100 ext. 242

YOU HAVE THE POWER

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JOBS IN THIS FIELD

Job titles	Place of work	Kind of work	Average salary*
Staff psychiatrist	Public hospital or clinic	Evaluates patient's condition through interviews, tests, and other techniques; implements appropriate treatment.	\$60,000-\$90,000 (starting range)
Psychiatrist	Private practice	Evaluates patient's condition and implements appropriate treatment.	\$130,000
Psychiatric aide/ technician	Hospital, psychiatry department, mental health clinic, nursing home	Provides general psychiatric nursing care to patients, including personal care such as bathing; observes patient behavior; participates in the development and implementation of patient treatment plans.	\$17,430-\$27,080 (range)

*Salaries may vary depending on region and experience. Sources: Chronicle Guidance Publications and Occupational Outlook Handbook. a