

Patient Advocate



What do they do?

A Patient Advocate helps patients navigate their way through the health care system. They meet individually with patients to help them understand their procedures, treatment options, financial responsibilities, and to connect with their doctors and specialists.

Where do they work?

Patient advocates can work in insurance companies, hospitals, clinics, or non-profit organizations.

Pay:

According to PayScale.com, the average yearly income for a Patient Advocate ranges between \$25,288 - \$55,279.



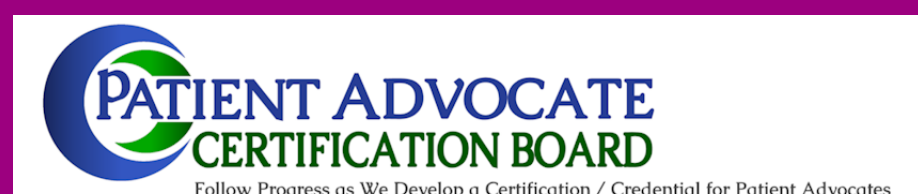
Education:

A high school diploma is required to become a Patient Advocate, however many Patient Advocates have other healthcare related certificates or degrees. Many people become Patient Advocates after working in a health care setting in roles such as a nurse, doctor, social worker etc.

There are few accreditation programs and degree options specific to becoming a Patient Advocate. In general, a Patient Advocate role requires a high level of medical knowledge. As patient advocacy grows there is the possibility of certified education programs within the next few years.

Certification:

There are not any accredited certification programs currently available; however, there are some coming soon. The Patient Advocate Certification Board is currently developing a standardized certification for Patient Advocacy. It is expected that their first certification will be offered in the year of 2017.



Important Skills:

- Verbal and written communication
- Health promotion and maintenance
- Food and Drug Administration health regulations and legal compliance
- Problem solving
- Coordination and management
- Listening and patience
- Organization
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Attention to detail
- Persuasion

National Organizations:

There are national organizations that provide support and continuing education to Patient Advocates.

The Beryl Institute

www.theberylinstitute.org

National Association of Healthcare Advocacy Consultants

<http://nahac.memberlodge.com>

The Alliance of Professional Health Advocates

www.aphadvocates.org



Job Outlook:

Patient Advocacy is a new and growing career field. According to Top Master's in Healthcare this field is rapidly growing parallel to the aging Baby Boomer generation.

www.topmastersinhealthcare.com/job-profiles/patient-advocate

