



PCT Certification Key Questions & Answers

Why should I pursue a career as a PCT?



-  You want to provide direct and meaningful care to patients
-  You seek an engaging career in healthcare
-  You want to work in the healthcare setting of your choice (e.g., hospital, doctor's office, clinic, etc.)
-  You want to make a difference each day in the lives of the patients you work with
-  You want to be a part of a healthcare team to learn new skills and capabilities
-  You want a sense of achievement each day

What are the educational backgrounds for PCTs?



- 27% Bachelors
- 25% Associate
- 28% High School Diploma
- 20% Other



How long does it take to complete the certification process?

PCT programs vary in length and you can find programs between **3 and 12 months**

* To become certified, you must meet eligibility requirements listed on AMT website.

Where do PCTs practice?

Most PCTs currently practice in hospitals and health systems, but the number practicing in a variety of outpatient settings is increasing.



- 57% Hospital
- 13% Home care agency
- 8% Extended care facility
- 7% Doctor's office
- 4% Clinic
- 3% Rehabilitation center
- 6% Other

What will I be learning?

PCT certification focuses on a curriculum that includes:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Cardiac Care, CPR and ECGs
- Medical Terminology
- First Aid
- Vital Signs and Measurements
- Phlebotomy and Specimen Collection
- Wound Care
- Infection Control
- Patient Safety



- Patient Health and Wellness
- Bathing
- Positioning and Turning
- Communication
- Documentation
- Activities of Daily Life
- Patient Transport
- Law and Ethics
- Diet and Nutrition



Beyond the technical learning, what skills do I need?

The most successful Patient Care Technicians possess these skills:

Compassion and Empathy PCTs need to respond with patience to patients who are often scared, frustrated and feeling sick.



Flexibility PCTs need to be able to adapt, multi-task and change direction quickly as workflow and patient cases change throughout the day.

Observant and Strong Listening Skills Active listening is important for patients to feel heard and for proper documentation of changes in a patient's condition.

Strong Communicator PCTs need to speak clearly with patients and their families in addition to communicating with others on the healthcare team.

Team Player PCTs work in teams that include doctors, nurses and specialty technicians to ensure patient's obtain high quality care.

