



## Health Career Directory

### Cardiology Technologist

#### Overview

Cardiology technologists perform cardiology tests to provide information needed in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. Cardiology technologists work with other health care professionals involved in diagnostic testing, monitoring, and heart functioning evaluation. They may use a variety of electronic monitoring equipment for:

- electrocardiography
- multi-stage stress testing
- holter monitor analysis
- arrhythmia monitor analysis
- tilt table testing
- pacemaker clinics
- blood pressure analysis.

In general, cardiology technologists:

- prepare patients for testing by explaining procedures
- get medical history information
- make sure patients are comfortable and safe during procedures
- implement resuscitation measures when necessary
- prepare testing information from diagnostic procedures for physician interpretation
- immediately notify physicians and nursing staff when they recognize life-threatening arrhythmias (heartbeats)
- maintain equipment and trouble shoot technical problems
- help in research projects.

Cardiology technologists must keep up to date with changing technologies. Therefore they do a lot of computer work. Computer knowledge would be an asset.

#### Who is suited to become a cardiology technologist?

Cardiology technologists work with people who are not feeling well and may be afraid of test procedures.

Therefore, technologists are most effective when they have the following skills and characteristics:

- mature and self-confident

- able to communicate understanding and comfort to patients
- able to pay close attention to details
- able to think and act quickly and appropriately in emergency situations
- able to work with little direct supervision
- organized.

They should enjoy working with computers and electronic equipment at tasks requiring precision. They should work within clear guidelines and established methods. They should also be able to put together and record test results.

### **Who employs cardiology technologists?**

Most cardiology technologists work in hospital cardiology departments. Some are employed in private laboratories and clinics. In smaller rural hospitals, they may have other duties (for example, medical laboratory services). Those who work in smaller rural hospitals may therefore require additional training.

They work rotating shifts in these health care environments. Their work is physically demanding.

They are often on their feet and may be expected to help lift and move patients who cannot move on their own.

Cardiology technologists must follow standard infection control procedures.

### **Salary**

\$25.23 - \$31.44 per hour

### **Training and education required to become a Cardiology Technologist**

In general, the entrance requirement is a high school diploma with related science courses, or equivalent. For current information about programs, admission requirements and mature student admission policies please go to list of educational programs in the resource section of this document.

Employers may prefer to hire graduates who have completed the two year diploma programs.

The various programs across Canada have limited seats depending on the number of available clinical sites from year to year. Therefore relocation to another city or province may be required to complete the clinical practicum.

### **Career Advancement**

Cardiology technology can be a very rewarding profession. Most cardiology technologists stay in clinical practice for a long time. This is because they enjoy providing direct care to their patients, and working in a team environment.

Without additional education, advancement opportunities in this occupation are limited.

### **Education Programs**

#### **University Programs in British Columbia**

British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)  
<http://www.bcit.ca/study/programs/530adiplt>

Steinberg College  
<http://www.stenbergcollege.com/>

Vancouver Island Institute of Medical Technology  
<http://www.pctia.bc.ca/listings?institution=3503>  
Mohawk College of Applied Art & Technology  
<http://www.mohawkc.on.ca/>

Everest College of Business, Technology, and Health Care  
<http://www.everest.ca/>

Stenberg College  
<http://www.stenbergcollege.com/>

College Communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick,  
<http://www.ccnb.nb.ca/accueil.aspx>

Centre for Arts and Technology  
Vancouver Island Institute of Medical Technology  
<http://184.71.21.35/viimt/>

### **Financial assistance and bursaries**

For information about Canada student loans and grants, please visit:  
[http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/canada\\_student\\_loan/index.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/canada_student_loan/index.shtml)

### **Associations**

Canadian Society of Cardiology Technologists  
<http://www.csct.ca/>

Cardiology Technologists Association of British Columbia  
<http://ctabc.ca/>