Neonatal Nurse

Neonatal nursing is an area of nursing that works specifically with newborn infants. These newborn babies can be born with a wide range of problems including being born premature, infections, a birth defect, malformations with their heart, or surgical problems. The first month of life is considered the neonatal period. The newborns in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) are often sick long after birth. Neonatal nurses generally care for the child from birth up until they are discharged, which can range anywhere from infancy to a two-year-old.

For my career, I have chosen to become a Neonatal Nurse. I have always loved babies and small children since I was a child myself. Being the babysitter at all family events and eventually as I got older, becoming an actual babysitter and nanny to other children has enlightened me on what I actually want to do. My interests include helping people, caring for others, spreading love around, and striving to do my best to make a difference in someone’s day or life no matter how big or small. I have always known that I wanted to be a nurse and that being a nurse would be the right job for me, but the neonatal aspect will make it much more worthwhile.

To be a neonatal nurse, one has to be empathetic towards patients and families, compassionate, have effective communication to relay information, flexibility to adapt to your changing work environment every day, competence, and be very understanding. Personally, I
feel that I possess all of these characteristics that are necessary for this career. A neonatal nurse’s
duties focus on the care of newborns and infants in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) along
with other specialists of newborn care or taking care of healthy babies in the nursery. Neonatal
nurses usually work in hospitals or birthing centers that provide care after birth, but NICU nurses
are almost always in hospitals.

This career has long shifts that consist of during the week, on weekends, and there are no
exceptions for holidays. The education required to be a neonatal nurse includes having a
Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing (BSN) while being a Registered Nurse (RN) with Neonatal
Resuscitation or Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing certification. Georgia State University offers
the ideal major for this career, which is nursing. Steps that one might take to advance in this
career are to start their nursing education, become a registered nurse, work as a neonatal nurse,
consider certification, and earn your Advanced Practice Degree as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.
There are many job openings around the Atlanta area at many different hospitals. The average
salary in Atlanta, GA for a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner is $115,659. Related occupations to
Neonatal Nursing are Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Low Risk Neonatal Nursing, Maternal
Newborn Nursing, Pediatric Nursing, Neonatal Pediatric Transport, Labor and Delivery Nursing,
Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner, and many others.

I am very positive that Neonatal Nursing is the right job for me. My senior year of high
school, I received an internship at Valley Healthcare Systems. While interning as a Certified
Nursing Assistant (CNA), I built long lasting relationships with my mentors as well as my
patients. I worked with both pediatric and adult patients. Pediatrics was my favorite by far.
Seeing how things go, being able to be hands on and interacting with these children gave me
even more clarity than I already had on becoming a Neonatal Nurse. I looked forward to coming
in every day and seeing their faces and for me, it is very important to do something that I enjoy and love doing every day until I retire, and that will be this occupation.
Works Cited


Learn.org -, learn.org/articles/What_Are_the_Duties_for_a_Neonatal_Nurse.html.