



EKG Technician

Facts about EKG Technician & Job Opportunities

According to the California Employment Development Department, In California, the number of EKG Technicians is expected to grow much faster than average growth rate for all occupations. Jobs for EKG Technicians are expected to increase by 28.9 percent, or 1,100 jobs between 2008 and 2018.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, the number of Technicians is expected to grow much faster than average growth rate for all occupations. Jobs for Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians are expected to increase by 11.1 percent, or 20 jobs between 2008 and 2018.

What Does an EKG Technician Do?

EKG Technicians assist physicians in diagnosing and treating cardiac (heart) and vascular (blood) ailments. Technicians perform electrocardiograms, treadmill stress tests, or Holter monitoring. Technologists may specialize in one of the following areas: vascular technology, invasive cardiology, and echocardiography.



EKG Technicians assess the heart by looking at its electrical activity. This entry-level position of Electrocardiograph (EKG) Technician operates and maintains EKG machines. The EKG machines detect and record electronic impulses transmitted by the heart during and between heartbeats. With additional training, these Technicians can conduct stress testing and Holter monitoring.

For treadmill stress tests, EKG Technicians document the patient's medical history, explain the procedure, connect the patient to an EKG monitor, and obtain a baseline reading and resting blood pressure. Next, they monitor the heart's performance while the patient is walking on a treadmill, gradually increasing the treadmill's speed to observe the effect of increased exertion.

Personal Characteristics & Working Conditions

EKG Technicians spend a lot of time walking and standing. Heavy lifting may be involved to move equipment or lift patients. Those who work in catheterization laboratories may face stressful working conditions because they are in close contact with patients with serious heart ailments.



Technologists and Technicians generally work a 5-day, 40-hour week that may include evenings and weekends. Those in catheterization laboratories tend to work longer hours and may work evenings. They also may be on call during the night and on weekends.

How much can I earn?

The median wage in 2010 for EKG Technologists and Technicians in California was \$57,784 annually, or \$27.78 hourly. The median wage for Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians in the San Francisco Bay Area was \$59,147 annually, or \$28.43 hourly. The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

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