

### **RVCC to Offer New Program in Medication Nursing Assistant (MNA)**

River Valley Community College is expanding its offerings in healthcare by offering a new certificate in Medication Nursing Assistant (MNA). The approval of the program was recently granted by the New Hampshire Board of Nursing.

The Medication Nursing Assistant (MNA) Program prepares Licensed Nursing Assistants (LNA) to function as trusted care partners of the Registered Nursing and Licensed Practical Nurses in administering medications to stable clients in long-term care facilities. The scope of the program covers all the basic principles and techniques of medication administration including an overview of common drugs, their effects and side effects, and key safety issues that include medication interactions, common errors, over-the-counter medications, and medication use in older adults. This program will be delivered as 40 hours of theory in the classroom setting and 40 hours of clinical at an approved clinical facility.

The MNA plays a key role as a direct care provider and is a way for experienced LNAs to advance in their career path. The course will be taught in person at RVCC- Claremont with our LNA Program Coordinator and Adjunct Nursing Faculty member, Marci Thibodeau, as lead instructor. Marci will also be the Program Coordinator for the MNA program.

We are excited to be launching this program in November. Detailed information about the Program can be found at <https://www.rivervalley.edu/program/mna-medication-nursing-assistant/>. Potential students must hold a valid unencumbered nursing assistant license (LNA) issued by the Board of Nursing and have worked as an LNA for two full years (4,160 hours) within the past five years.

The main topics will include:

- The professional role of the MNA
- Medical ethics and laws
- Infection control and safety for administering medications
- Basic pharmacology and common drugs used for a broad range of medical conditions