
Nursing Side Income Guide

Flexible Ways to Earn — While You Stay at the Bedside

You don't have to leave bedside nursing to build another stream of income. These are real options nurses use — with what each actually requires, what it costs to start, and what it realistically pays. Ranges are general estimates and vary by state, experience, and market.

1 Income Options

Telehealth / Chart Review Nursing

What it is	Remote patient triage, virtual visits, or reviewing medical records for insurers, attorneys, or quality teams.
Requirements	Active RN license; most telehealth roles want 2+ years clinical experience
Startup cost	\$0 — usually no certification needed to start
Time investment	10–20 hrs/week, flexible/remote
Income potential	\$25 – \$45/hour

Health & Wellness Coaching

What it is	One-on-one or group coaching on chronic disease management, weight, or lifestyle change.
Requirements	RN license; health coach certification (NBHWC) recommended but not always required
Startup cost	\$500 – \$2,000 for certification
Time investment	5–15 hrs/week, flexible
Income potential	\$50 – \$150/session

CPR / PCA Instruction

What it is	Teaching CPR, First Aid, or Personal Care Aide courses through the Red Cross, AHA, or state-approved programs.
Requirements	Instructor certification through American Heart Association or Red Cross
Startup cost	\$150 – \$400 for instructor certification
Time investment	Class-based, a few hours per session
Income potential	\$30 – \$75/hour taught

Legal Nurse Consulting

What it is	Reviewing medical records and providing clinical expertise to attorneys for malpractice or injury cases.
Requirements	RN license; LNC/CLNC certification strongly preferred by most firms
Startup cost	\$1,500 – \$3,000 for certification program
Time investment	Project-based, flexible
Income potential	\$75 – \$150/hour

Medical Writing & Content Creation

What it is	Writing patient education materials, blog content, or clinical copy for healthcare companies and websites.
Requirements	RN license; strong writing samples (a portfolio matters more than a certificate)
Startup cost	\$0 – \$200 (portfolio site optional)
Time investment	Flexible, project-based
Income potential	\$0.10 – \$1+/word or \$50 – \$150/hour

IV Hydration & Aesthetics

What it is	Mobile IV hydration therapy or assisting with medical aesthetics (Botox, fillers) under a supervising provider.
Requirements	RN license; additional aesthetics or IV therapy training; state scope-of-practice rules apply
Startup cost	\$1,000 – \$3,000 for training
Time investment	10–20 hrs/week
Income potential	\$40 – \$80/hour

FCH / Compliance Consulting

What it is	Helping family care home owners prepare for state surveys and stay compliant with regulations.
Requirements	RN license; strong knowledge of state regulations (e.g., 10A NCAC 13G in NC)
Startup cost	\$0 – built on existing clinical & regulatory knowledge
Time investment	Project-based (mock surveys, retainers)
Income potential	\$75 – \$150/hour or flat project rate



Quick-Start Checklist — No Extra Certification Needed

- ☐ Telehealth / chart review — apply directly with an active RN license
- ☐ Medical writing — build 2–3 writing samples and start pitching
- ☐ FCH / compliance consulting — package your existing regulatory knowledge into a service

Before you start any side income stream, check your employer's moonlighting policy, confirm your state's scope-of-practice rules for the specific work, and carry your own liability coverage if you're operating independently.