

In-Home Nursing

I've been doing in-home nursing for a client with ALS for the past year and a half. Technically I'm over-qualified since I finished my advanced nursing practice degree. But I hadn't been able to find work and almost lost my nursing licence because I was short on hours. This job fell into my lap – I was actually hired during the interview. There has been a lot of turnover of staff but I really like my job. It pays very well, is low stress, and the schedule is flexible. Sometimes coming to work is a nice break from the responsibilities of parenting. The work itself is mostly slow-paced and easy so even after 12 hours, I go home with lots of energy.

We don't get breaks but there's tons of downtime that I use for writing, drawing, or reading. I work one or two 12 hour shifts each week. It's hard being away from my young children for so long, but the long shifts mean fewer days per week for the same pay. Last year, the shift work was wearing me down – my shifts were sporadic and I was tired all the time. This year I've limited the days that I'm "available" – I'm getting the same number of shifts but I have more control over what my schedule looks like and it's made a huge difference. It's the perfect job for me at this moment in my life.