



MEDICAL STAFF INVOLVED IN THE HOSPITAL AND THEIR FUNCTIONS



Health systems can only function with health workers; improving health service coverage and realizing the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is dependent on their availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality.



HEALTH PROFESSIONS NETWORKS

Health professionals play a central and critical role in improving access and quality health care for the population.

They provide essential services that promote health, prevent diseases and deliver health care services to individuals, families and communities based on the primary health care approach.



THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF HEALTH WORKERS

The classification of health workers maps occupation categories into five broad groupings

- Health professionals
- Health associate professionals
- Personal care workers in health services
- Health management and support personnel, and
- Other health service providers not elsewhere classified.



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

- Health professionals study, advise on or provide preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services based on an extensive body of theoretical and factual knowledge in diagnosis and treatment of disease and other health problems.
- They may conduct research on human disorders and illnesses and ways of treating them, and supervise other workers.
- The knowledge and skills required are usually obtained as the result of study at a higher educational institution in a health-related field for a period of 3–6 years leading to the award of a first degree or higher qualification



1. Generalist medical practitioners
2. Specialist medical practitioners
3. Nursing professionals
4. Midwifery professionals
5. Traditional and complementary medicine professionals
6. Paramedical practitioners
7. Dentists
8. Pharmacists
9. Environmental and occupational health and hygiene professionals
10. Physiotherapists
11. Dieticians and nutritionists
12. Audiologists and speech therapists
13. Optometrists and ophthalmic opticians
14. Health professionals not elsewhere classified



GENERALIST MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

(Including family and primary care doctors) diagnose, treat and prevent illness, disease, injury, and other physical and mental impairments and maintain general health in humans through application of the principles and procedures of modern medicine. They do not limit their practice to certain disease categories or methods of treatment, and may assume responsibility for the provision of continuing and comprehensive medical care to individuals, families and communities

SPECIALIST MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Diagnose, treat and prevent illness, disease, injury and other physical and mental impairments. They plan, supervise and evaluate the implementation of care and treatment plans by other health care providers. They specialize in certain disease categories, types of patient or methods of treatment, and may conduct medical education and research activities in their chosen areas of specialization



Medical doctors by specialty groupings

Doctors in obstetric and gynecological specialties

Doctors in paediatrics

Doctors in psychiatric specialties

Doctors in the medical group of specialties

Doctors in the surgical group of specialties

Doctors in specialties not elsewhere classified



NURSING PROFESSIONALS

Nursing professionals provide treatment, support and care services for people who are in need of nursing care due to the effects of ageing, injury, illness or other physical or mental impairment, or potential risks to health, according to the practice and standards of modern nursing.

MIDWIFERY PROFESSIONALS

They plan, manage, provide and evaluate midwifery care services before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth. They provide delivery care for reducing health risks to women and newborn children according to the practice and standards of modern midwifery, working autonomously or in teams with other health care providers.



TRADITIONAL AND COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE PROFESSIONALS

Examine patients and prevent and treat illness, disease, injury and other physical, mental and psychosocial ailments by applying knowledge, skills and practices acquired through extensive study of the theories and experiences originating in specific cultures. They research, develop and implement treatment plans using applications such as acupuncture, ayurvedic, homoeopathic and herbal medicine.

PARAMEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

(Including clinical officers and related) provide advisory, diagnostic, curative and preventive medical services more limited in scope and complexity than those carried out by medical doctors. They work autonomously or with limited supervision of medical doctors, and perform clinical, therapeutic and surgical procedures for treating and preventing diseases, injuries, and other physical or mental impairments common to specific communities.



DENTISTS

(Including dental surgeons and related) diagnose, treat and prevent diseases, injuries and abnormalities of the teeth, mouth, jaws and associated tissues by applying the principles and procedures of modern dentistry. They use a broad range of specialized diagnostic, surgical and other techniques to promote and restore oral health.

PHARMACISTS

Pharmacists store, preserve, compound and dispense medicinal products. They counsel on the proper use and adverse effects of drugs and medicines following prescriptions issued by medical doctors and other health professionals. They contribute to researching, testing, preparing, prescribing and monitoring medicinal therapies for optimizing human health.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE PROFESSIONALS

Assess, plan and implement programs to recognize, monitor and control environmental factors that can potentially affect human health, to ensure safe and healthy working conditions, and to prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, radiological and biological agents or ergonomic factors.

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Assess, plan and implement rehabilitative programs that improve or restore human motor functions, maximize movement ability, relieve pain syndromes, and treat or prevent physical challenges associated with injuries, diseases and other impairments.

DIETICIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS

Assess, plan and implement programs to enhance the impact of food and nutrition on human health.



AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH THERAPISTS

Evaluate, manage and treat physical disorders affecting human hearing, speech communication and swallowing.

OPTOMETRISTS AND OPHTHALMIC OPTICIANS

Provide diagnosis, management and treatment services for disorders of the eyes and visual system.

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED

This group covers health professionals not classified elsewhere such as podiatrists, occupational therapists, recreational therapists and other professionals providing diagnostic, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services.