

Component 2: The Culture of Health Care

Unit 2a: Health Professionals – the people in health care: Introduction and Physicians

Unit 2a: Objectives

After completing this unit, the learner will be able to:

- Define terms used in health care including clinician, patient, disease, and syndrome and in health professionals' education and training
- Describe the education, training, certification, and licensure of physicians including
 - Primary care specialties
 - Family medicine
 - Internal medicine
 - Pediatrics
 - Obstetrics
 - Emergency medicine and specialties as primary care
 - Common medical specialties and subspecialties
 - Typical surgical specialties
 - Radiologists, pathologists, etc.

Terminology

- **Health Professional:** A variety of professions who provide care to the sick and injured, this includes pre-hospital, hospital, outpatient, home and extended care.
- **Patient:** Anyone who seeks medical services

Terminology

- Clinician: “an individual qualified in the clinical practice of medicine, psychiatry, or psychology as distinguished from one specializing in laboratory or research techniques or in theory” (Merriam Webster Medical Dictionary. MedlinePlus. [Retrieved on 2010 June 26]. Available from: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/medlineplus/clinician>)

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Terminology

- Disease: an impairment of a specific structure or function of the body which produces symptoms and physical findings. Usually attributable to a specific cause such as bacterial causing pneumonia.
- Syndrome: A combination of symptoms and physical findings not easily attributable to a *specific cause*. An example is Carpal Tunnel Syndrome which is pain, burning and numbness in the hand.

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Terminology

- Education
 - Formal lecture and learning activities including simulation and patient contact
 - Depending on the health profession may be on the job training, a certificate, associate degree, bachelor's degree, Master's Degree, on Doctoral Degree
- Training
 - Supervised clinical practice. Often has increasing level of responsibility with time

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Terminology

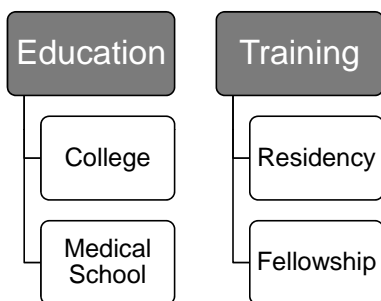
- Certification has several meanings
 - Education/Training Certificate program usually one year, e.g.. Medical Assistant
 - Certification by a national health profession organization usually requires completion of an accredited program and an exam, e.g. Radiologic Technologist. Physicians are considered Board Certified in a specialty or subspecialty by completion of an approved residency/fellowship and a board exam.
 - Same states use certification as mechanism regulated clinical practice

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Physician



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Physician

- Certification
 - Completion of an approved residency or fellowship program
 - Must have a valid licenses to practice
 - Must complete a written and/or practical exam in that specialty or subspecialty
 - Maintenance of Certification
- Licensure
 - State
 - Reciprocity

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Primary Care Specialties

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics
- Primary Care Delivered by Default
 - Emergency Medicine
 - Specialties

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Common Internal Medicine Specialties and Subspecialties

- Cardiovascular Disease
- Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism
- Gastroenterology
- Geriatric Medicine
- Hematology and Oncology
- Infectious Disease
- Nephrology
- Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine
- Rheumatology

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Surgical Subspecialties

- Cardiovascular Surgery
- Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pediatric Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Urology

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Other Specialties

- Radiology
 - Diagnostic
 - Neuroradiology
 - Interventional
 - Pediatric
 - Radiation Oncology
 - Nuclear Radiology

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Pathology

- Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine
- Cytopathology
- Forensic Pathology
- Laboratory Medicine
- Pediatric Pathology

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Non-Clinical Roles of Physicians

- Administration
- Teaching
- Research
- Public Health
- Health and Biomedical Informatics
- Publishing

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Summary

- Some useful health care terminology was explained
- Education, Training, Certification and Licensure of Physicians was described
- Primary care roles of Physicians was described
- We examined some of specialty, subspecialty and non-clinical roles of Physicians.

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