

Component 2: The Culture of Health Care

Unit 2: Health Professionals – the people in health care

Lecture 3: Physician Asst., Pharmacy, Therapist, Technicians

Unit 2, Lecture 3 Objectives

- Physician Assistant education, training, certification, licensure and roles
- Pharmacists education, training, certification, licensure and roles
- Therapists - hospital and clinic based
 - Respiratory therapy
 - Physical therapy
 - Occupational therapy
- Technicians and ancillary services
 - Ancillary services: radiology, EKG, etc
 - Nutrition and dietary

Physician Assistant

- Education
 - Most PA applicants have a B.A.
 - Associate, Bachelors, or Masters Degree
- Training
 - Preclinical
 - Clinical
- Certification
 - Required to pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam, maintaining certification requires Continuing Medical Education and recertifying every six years

Physician Assistant

- Licensure
 - In most states licensure is by a the medical board, some states have a specific PA board
- Roles
 - Diagnose and treat patients under the supervision of a physician
 - Most states allow prescribing authority
 - Most states allow Physician Assistants to make hospital and nursing home rounds

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Pharmacist

- Education
 - Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) required since 2007
- Training
 - Usually two years of general studies (usually prior to admittance)
 - Usually two years of pharmacy science
 - Usually two years of clinical pharmacy
 - Option exist for residency and fellowships

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Pharmacy

- Certification
 - The are five specialty practice areas recognized by the Board of Pharmacy Specialties; Ambulatory Care Pharmacy, Nuclear Pharmacy, Nutrition Support Pharmacy, Oncology Pharmacy, Pharmacotherapy, and Psychiatric Pharmacy

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Pharmacy

- Licensure
 - Varies by States
 - All states require the North America Pharmacy Licensure Exam (NAPLEX)
 - Most states require the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Exam (MPJE)
 - Some states require a state exam instead of or in addition to the MPJE
- Roles
 - Dispensing, community and hospital based
 - Consulting, usually hospital based

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Respiratory Therapy

- Education
 - Usually an Associate Degree, but there are Bachelor's Degree's in Respiratory Therapy
- Training
 - Preclinical
 - Clinical
- Certification – two levels
 - Certified Respiratory Therapist Exam (CRT)
 - Register Respiratory Therapist Exam (RRT)
 - Both exams are offered by the National Board of Respiratory Care

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Respiratory Therapy

- Licensure
 - Required in most States
 - Successful completion of the CRT exam required
- Roles
 - Respiratory Assess
 - Patient Education
 - Respiratory Treatments and Medication
 - Oxygen Administration and Ventilator Support

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Physical Therapy

- Physical Therapy Aide**
 - On the job training
 - Not licensed
- Physical Therapy Assistant**
 - Associate Degree
 - Licensure varies by state
- Physical Therapist**
 - Master or Doctoral Degree
 - Licensure
 - NPTE
 - Other exams or requirements

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Occupational Therapy

- Occupational Therapy Aide**
 - On the job training
 - Not licensed
- Occupational Therapy Assistant**
 - Associate Degree or Certificate
 - Certification
 - COTA
 - Licensure varies by state
- Occupational Therapist**
 - Master or Doctoral Degree
 - Certification
 - OTR
 - Licensure varies by state

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Radiology Technician/Technologist

- Education
 - Certificate, Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree
- Training
 - Some general studies
 - Anatomy, Physiology, Math, Physics, Radiation Technology
 - Clinical practica

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Radiology Technician/ Technologist

- **Certification**
 - Voluntary Certification by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist
 - Includes graduation from an accredited program and passing an exam
- **Licensure**
 - Varies by state, but most require licensure
 - ARRT certification is often a requirement

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Radiology Technician/ Technologist

- **Role**
 - Help maintain and calibrate equipment
 - Position and set controls for X-Rays
 - May specialize in a specific type of Radiology like Computed Tomography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging

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EKG Technician

- **Education**
 - Some certificate programs usually a single class of approximately 50-60 hours
 - Often on the job training
- **Training**
 - Basic anatomy, physiology and electrophysiology of the heart
 - Technical training on how to use the equipment, verify quality of the tracing

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EKG Technician

- Certification
 - There appear to be some certification exams but they do not appear to be required
- License
 - No state license required
- Role
 - It the most basic form, EKG Technicians set up the EKG equipment, run the test, evaluate whether it is an accurate recording and prepare the recording for interpretation.

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Dietetics and Nutrition

Dietetic Technician (DTR)

- Associates Degree
- Registration Examination for Dietetic Technicians
- Variable Licensure

Dietician (RD)

- Bachelor's Degree
- Registration Examination for Dieticians
- Most states require licensure, certification or registration

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Summary

- The education, training, certification, licensure and roles of the following health professions have been described:
 - Physician Assistants
 - Pharmacist
 - Respiratory, Physical and Occupation Therapy
 - Examples of some technicians
 - Nutrition and Dietary

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