

## Component 2: The Culture of Health Care

Unit 2c: Health Professionals –  
the people in health care:  
Additional Health Professionals

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### Unit 2c Objectives

After completing this unit, the learner will be able to describe the education, training, certification, licensure and roles of:

- Physician Assistants
- Pharmacists
- Respiratory Therapist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist
- Radiology and EKG Technicians
- Nutrition and Dietary Professionals

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- Paramedics and EMTs
- Dental Health Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals
- Social Workers
- Case Managers

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### 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

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### 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
  - Prescribing authority
  - 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 six 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
  - North America Pharmacy Licensure Exam (NAPLEX)
  - 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)
  - Registered 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 practicums

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**Radiology Technician/  
Technologist**

- Certification
  - Voluntary Certification by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist (ARRT)
  - Accredited training program and 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
  - Often on the job training
  - Certificate programs usually consists of a single course
- 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

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**Dietician (RD)**

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

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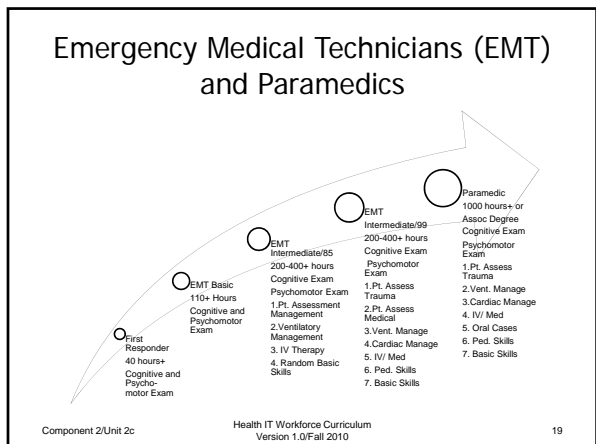
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### Dental Health

<h4 style="text-align: center;">Dental Assistant</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the Job</li> <li>• Certificate</li> <li>• Associates Degree</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Certification                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certified Dental Assistant Exam</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Licensure                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varies by State</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<h4 style="text-align: center;">Dental Hygienist</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Associates Degree</li> <li>• Bachelor's Degree</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Licensure                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Dental Hygiene Board Exam</li> <li>• State Clinical Board</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### Dentist

- Education
  - Doctor Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)
  - 4 years of college
  - 4 years of dental school
- Training
  - Preclinical
  - Clinical

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## Dentist

- Licensure
  - Dental School
  - Written National Board Dental Examinations
  - Additional written and practical examinations vary by state
- Role
  - General preventive, restorative and periodontal care

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## Mental Health Professionals

Counselor	Psychologist	Psychiatrist
Education: Master's Degree	Education: PhD	Education" MD Residency
Training: Supervised Clinical Experience	Training: Supervised Clinical Experience	Training: 4 Years Residency Training

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## Mental Health Professionals

Counselor	Psychologist	Psychiatrist
Licensure: Required but varies by state	Licensure: Required but varies by state	Licensure: USLME Exams Certification: Psychiatry Board
Role: Counseling Therapy	Role: Counseling Therapy	Role: Counseling Therapy May prescribe medication

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### Social Workers

- Education
  - Bachelor's Degree in Social Work (BSW)
  - Master's Degree in Social Work (MSW)
- Training
  - BSW focuses on direct service
  - MSW more clinical and supervisory training
- Licensure
  - All states and the District of Columbia require licensure, certification or registration.

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### Social Workers

- Roles
  - BSW
    - Direct Service
    - Case Management
      - Health, housing, relationships, disability
  - MSW
    - Counseling
    - Case Management
    - Supervisory
    - May specialize in certain areas like mental health, substance abuse, rehabilitation

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### Case Manager

- Education
  - Varies greatly to include on the job training, Associate or Certificate Programs, Nursing Degrees and Social Service Degrees
- Training
  - May include additional training specific for case management
- Certification
  - There are specific certification for "Case Managers" but does not tend to be required.

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### Case Manager

- Licensure
  - Depending on Education and Training
- Role
  - A case manager is required to assess a client or patients problems and mobilize resources to enable the best ability to function

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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 Therapists
  - Technicians
  - Nutrition and Dietary

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- Paramedics and EMT's
- Dental Health Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals
- Social Workers and Case Managers

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