

HEALTH PROFESSIONS

METIERS DE LA SANTE

26 NOVEMBRE 2011

HEALTH IS A DIVERSE FIELD...

Over 100 different health careers

Mostly people who spend their time diagnosing, treating or rehabilitating the sick

Usually require some sort of registration to practice (ie controlled field)

- This is not true everywhere
- Avoids “quacks” – unregistered practitioners who do more harm than good
- Lengthens training
- Reduces portability

Mostly requires some sort of vocational conviction / hippocratic oath

DOCTORS

- **Considered the top of the medical field**
- **Mostly because of the long path to enter medicine**
- **Studies range from 7-9 years after high school**
- **Varied field – not as uniform as you think**
 - Specialization can take from 3-8 years depending on area of interest
 - Specialties are very different and require different skills to enter and succeed in

NURSING

- **Top paid medical job (per hour rate)**
- **Requires shorter training**
- **Usually hospital-based**
 - Practitioners have been established who work with outpatients (USA) but usually not independently
 - Can specialize in different fields
 - Eg Neonatology, paediatrics, emergency medicine
 - Shorter working hours than doctors (typically 3x12 hour shifts)
 - Less responsibility in some environments
- **Also very diverse and multiple levels – not all nurses are the same**

OTHERS

Pharmacist

- **Dispenses and can provide medical advice**
- **Medium-term studies**
- **Can become very sales-driven**

EMT

- **Emergency medicine – usually in ambulances but also emergency rooms**
- **Can be high-pressure with a lot of burnout**
- **Can lead to a career in specialized rescue**

Laboratory technicians

- **Varying levels as well**

ALLIED HEALTH

- **Physiotherapist**
- **Occupational therapist**
- **Speech and Language pathologists**
- **Orthotist**
- **Nutritionist**
- **Radiologist**
- **Podiatrist**
- **Technologist – nuclear medicine, radiation therapy etc**
- **Respiratory therapist**
- **Optometrist**
- **Audiologist**
- **Etc...**

PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Ranges from research to administration of programmes to treatment and prevention**
- **Usually is not related to one-on-one patient care but rather to the improvement of health of a population**
 - Changing habits/behaviour in people
 - Influencing governments about health
 - Influencing pharmaceutical and other interested parties about health outcomes
 - Usually based in research and knowledge of “what is best”
 - Usually more prominent in prevention
 - Lots of options in this field as well

WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE BLOOD

Health Administration

- **Running hospitals, clinics or government departments dealing with health**

Research

- **Adding to the body of evidence of what is good or bad for certain health issues – can be done in laboratory but also outside of this context such as epidemiology**

Teaching/Training

Public Health

Logistics for medical organizations

Medical transcription and clerical work

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION