LESSON PLAN

HOSPITALS
What’s it like to work in a hospital? Who works in a hospital?

OBJECTIVES:

1. To describe hospital functions, characteristics, and ownership.
2. To explain hospital organization and management.
3. To explore the role of the physician in the hospital.
4. To discuss issues related to working in a hospital.
5. To examine the roles of allied healthcare/ancillary professionals in the hospital.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Topic outline.
2. Physician handout.
3. Health occupations handout.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT:

Demonstrating knowledge and understanding through short answers to the following questions.

1. What are the ownership characteristics of hospitals?
2. What are the differences between for-profit and not-for-profit hospitals?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of working in a hospital?
4. What is the role of today’s allied professionals in providing healthcare service?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/WEBSITES:


Hospitals: What They Are and How They Work by Don Griffin, Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2006 3rd edition.

American Hospital Association, www.aha.org

Joint Commission, www.jointcommission.org

Explore Health Careers, www.explorehealthcareers.org
Hospitals

- Hospitals are the center of the US healthcare systems.
- The primary function of the hospital is to provide testing, diagnosis and treatment to patients who have various medical conditions.
- Hospital mission:
  - Patient care
  - Education
  - Research
- Hospital type:
  - General medical/surgical
  - Speciality
- Length of stay:
  - Short term/acute
  - Long term (chronic illness)
- Classification of hospitals:
  - Hospital size: Measured by the number of beds regularly maintained.
  - Ownership:
    - Private (for profit/proprietary; not for profit/voluntary)
    - Public (federal, state, local)
- Accreditation:
  - Most hospitals choose to become accredited
  - Accepted as an indicator of quality
  - Acceptable to Medicare and to most state licensing agencies
  - One example: Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations
- Medical division:
  - Medical staff is organized into ‘departments’ or ‘services’
  - Examples of major departments:
    - Medicine (internal medicine)
    - Surgery
    - Pediatric
    - Obstetrics/Gynecology
Organizational Structure of Hospital

- **Governing body**
  - Legally responsible for operation of hospital
  - Appoints administrator and others
  - Approves medical staff appointments
  - Establishes policies

- **Administrator (Chief Executive Officer, President)**
  - Responsible for operations
  - Hires management personnel
  - Cooperates with medical staff
  - Reports to Governing Body

- **Medical Staff**
  - Consists of doctors granted privileges
  - Determines medical treatment of patient
  - Generally not employee of hospital (independent contractor)

SOME Examples of Physician Specialties: See handout #1

What’s to like about working in a hospital?
- Work with and being around people
- Some positions have direct patient contact
- Some positions do not have direct patient contact
- Growing industry
- Technological advances
- Team oriented approach
- Relative flexibility and stability

Issues
- Need to perform multiple tasks
- Need to adapt to changing technology
- Need to adapt to changing economics
- Need to adapt to changing community needs
- Workforce shortages

SOME Examples of Careers: See handout #2
Examples of Physician Specialties:

General, family practices
Cardiovascular diseases
Dermatology
Gastroenterology
Internal medicine
Pediatrics
Pulmonary diseases
General surgery
Obstetrics/gynecology
Ophthalmology
Orthopedic
Otolaryngology
Plastic surgery
Urology
Anesthesiology
Diagnostic radiology
Emergency medicine
Neurology
Pathology
Radiology
**HEALTH OCCUPATIONS - FUNCTIONS AND EDUCATION**

**Examples of Doctoral Specialties:** (Other than physicians)

* Dentists-Care and treatment of dental and oral conditions. 8 years post high school. Specialists in oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, prosthodontics, endodontics, periodontics, pedodontics. Specialties require additional advanced education.

* Podiatrists (DPM)-Diagnose and treat diseases and deformities of the feet. May perform surgical procedures. 8 years post high school.

* Chiropractors-Practice is based on belief that many physical conditions are caused by misaligned vertebrae and manipulation can relieve or cure patients. 7-8 years post high school.

Optometrists (OD)-Doctor of Optometry, not a D.O. (osteopath) or an ophthalmologist. Scope of practice is less than ophthalmology. Examines eyes for vision problems, prescribes and fits glasses. 8 years post high school.

Veterinarians (DVM)-Care and treatment of animals. Usually specialize in either small or large animal practice. Specialties do exist in addition to these. 8 years post high school.

* = may be granted admitting privileges with a physician doing the History & Physical Examination and responsible for overall care

**Examples of Nursing Careers:** Carry out treatment ordered, observe symptoms and reactions, record facts, administer medication, provide information and counseling to patient.

Registered nurses (RN)-must pass state "boards" to be RN

Baccalaureate degree (BSN)-4 year programs

Associate degree (ADN)-2 year programs typically offered at community colleges

Licensed Practical Nurses-Bedside care of patient. Demand for LPNs varies with supply of RNs. 12-month programs.

Nurses' Aides or Nurses' Assistants-Personal care of patient. Are 8 week programs that are required in IL and WI to be a certified NA which is required in nursing homes.

Nurse-anesthetist-Additional training after RN in anesthesia.

Nurse-midwife-Must work in collaboration with obstetrician according to most state laws. Require additional training.
Clinical nurse specialist-Masters degree in an area of specialization for teaching, supervision, and for advanced practice. Peds, OB, med/surg, psych, public health, etc.

Nurse-practitioner-Can provide extended nursing services in primary care such as history taking, physical exam, ordering lab tests. Master degree.

**Examples of Health Occupations:**

Dental Hygienist-Cleans and polishes teeth, does patient education. 2-4 years of college in preparation.
Dental Assistant-Assists the dentist at chairside. 1-2 years after high school.

Dietician-Responsible for nutritional care of patients. May do research, teaching. Bachelor's degree plus 1 year internship.
Dietetic Technician-Prepares and serves meals under supervision of dietician. 3-4 years after high school.

Health Information Management- As healthcare advances, HIM provides the patient data needed to successfully navigate the changes. HIM encompasses a wide range of job functions. Among them are Medical Records Management, Privacy Officer, Risk Management, Medical Coding, Corporate Compliance, and Data Analysis and Reporting. 2-4 years after high school.

Kinesiotherapist-Treats the effects of disease, injury and congenital disorders, through the use of therapeutic exercise and education. Completes a four year bachelor’s degree in kinesiotherapy.

Laboratory Technologist/Technician-Conducts laboratory tests order, may specialize. 2-4 year degree.

Medical Assistant-Primarily works in physician's office rather than hospital. Assists physician with things like BP, weight, pulse, etc. Certificate and degree programs available.

Occupational Therapist-Maintenance and restoration of physical function, particularly manual ADL tasks. 6 years after high school.
Occupational Therapy Assistant-Assists therapist in carrying out therapy activities. 2 years after high school.

Optician-Adjusts, makes and finishes glasses to fit individuals. 1 to 2 years after high school.

Pharmacist-Prepares, distributes, maintains and dispenses drugs. In pharmacies and hospitals. Emphasis on education of patient to drug and any interactions, side effects. 6 to 8 years after high school.
Phlebotomy Technician—Collects blood samples by venipuncture from patients in a medical setting; assembles equipment in the lab. Complete an accredited phlebotomist program from a college or technical school which varies from a one semester to one year. Clinical site hours required.

Physical Therapist—Restoration of function and prevention of disability, emphasizing large muscles more than OTs. 6 to 9 years after high school.
Physical Therapy Assistant—Assists therapist in activities. 2 years after high school.

Radiologic Technician—Operates x-ray equipment. Prepares any medication to be administered. Minimum 2 years.
Diagnostic Radiography—Majority of techs work in this area.
Nuclear Medicine Technician—Involves working with radioactive isotopes and taking scans of irradiated patients.
Ultrasound Technician—Operates ultrasound or "echo" equipment. (May be other specialists depending on the equipment the hospital has.)

Respiratory Therapist—Carries out orders for patient’s respiratory needs: IPPB, respirator, humidifier, postural drainage, CPR. 1-5 years after high school.

Social Worker—Works with patient and family regarding social and financial situation. Does counseling. May contact outside agencies for referral. 4 to 10 years after high school.

Speech Pathologist—Tests, evaluates and works with patient's hearing and speech problems. 6 years after high school. Audiologist tests hearing.

Surgical Technician—Assists before, during and after surgery. Sets up instruments, linens, fluids, helps prep patient. Certificate and degree programs available.

Examples of Other Personnel in the Hospital:

Registration Staff—Admits and registers patients. Keeps track of bed availability.

Billing Specialist—Tabulates and completes the bill, sends to 3rd party payor.

Ward or Unit Clerk or Secretary—handles chart paperwork on floor, stamping papers, test forms, etc, making sure requisitions get to right department. Communication center. Some short educational programs available.

Pastoral Care Personnel—Visits patients and provides emotional and spiritual support.

Discharge Planning Personnel—Coordinates the discharge needs of the patient, including posthospital equipment needs, support services, etc. Often a nurse.

Patient Advocate—Works as liaison with hospital administration to represent the patient's interests.
Information System Personnel-Maintains IS programs for inventory, budgeting, accounts, etc.

Biomedical Engineer-Maintains and repairs electronic equipment in the hospital.

Also Maintenance, Housekeeping, etc. to name a few.