

Healthcare Careers and Laws

Read the two articles below and answer these questions:

1. What are some suitable healthcare jobs for people who like to work with patients versus those who don't like to work with patients?
2. What are four different work environments that healthcare professionals work in?
3. Which skills are important for healthcare jobs?
4. Are you interested in any healthcare careers?
5. What is WHMIS and what products does it cover?
6. What are the responsibilities of suppliers, employers, and employees under WHMIS?

Clip Source: <https://www.edumed.org/how-to-become/>

How to Become a Medical & Healthcare Professional

WRITTEN BY: EduMed Staff

LAST UPDATED: 08/07/2020

You know you want to help people. That's a given. Maybe you like working with kids, seniors, or cutting-edge technologies. But how do you turn a passion, an interest, or an idea into a long-term career in healthcare? Which profession speaks to you and what does it take to get started? The following guide helps students, young professionals, career changers, single parents, and anyone thinking about a medical career to enter the industry prepared.

Healthcare has a career for nearly everyone, and it all starts with finding your **niche**. For some that may be easy, but for others, it means answering a few simple questions.

Do You Like Working with Patients?

Before entering the industry, it's important to ascertain your level of interest when it comes to **patient care** vs. **administration**. Some medical support roles consist almost solely of direct patient interaction, while others concentrate more on the business side of things. Roles also exist that combine both for those who like diversity in their workdays. The following section highlights some of the jobs available in each area, but readers should remember that work environments and specific responsibilities vary by employer.

Yes! I want to work with patients every day

People who want to work closely with patients can choose from a variety of healthcare professions. While **registered nurses** may spend their days assessing patient conditions, recording medical histories, drawing blood, administering medicines, directing rehabilitative treatments, and performing diagnostic tests, **home health aides** help patients with everyday tasks such as grocery shopping, preparing meals, bathing and dressing, administering medicines, and helping with physical therapy exercises. If these day-to-day responsibilities sound appealing to you, the good news is that many positions with extensive face-to-face opportunities exist.

Other jobs that may interest you are Therapist, Paramedic, and Dentist.

I moderately like to work with patients but not every day

Even if you have a passion for helping patients recuperate and recover, that doesn't necessarily mean you want to work with them all day, every day. Finding equilibrium between care for others and care for self is critical, and taking on a job with moderate patient contact can help provide that balance.

Professionals such as **pharmacy techs**, **radiologic technologists**, and **dental assistants** have the opportunity to interact with patients on a daily basis, but they also spend time on other responsibilities, such as paperwork, scheduling, and handling insurance matters. Many roles requiring moderate patient interaction exist, so prospective students should familiarize themselves with each to find a position that ticks all the boxes.

I want to work relatively little with patients

Many people lack interest in professions requiring in-depth medical knowledge, but that doesn't necessarily preclude them from working in healthcare. Plenty of administrative roles exist that use their knowledge of business, technology, and billing to make the process of scheduling, receiving, and paying for care a more streamlined process. Individuals who enjoy working with data often gravitate towards positions as **medical coders and billers**, while those who want a change of pace from human patients may enjoy working with animals as **veterinary technicians**.

What's your preferred work environment?

Medical care facilities exist in many different forms, creating opportunities for those enthusiastic about this field to find the perfect job setting. Some healthcare professionals thrive on the **hustle-and-bustle** of large, busy facilities while others may feel more drawn towards smaller, local clinics that provide more opportunities to get to know patients and coworkers. Review the locations listed below to get a sense of the best location for their individual needs.

Hospitals

For medical professionals in training who want to work in fast-paced environments where no day is the same, hospitals can provide a great work setting. These facilities employ many different types of healthcare workers, allowing patient-facing and administrative professionals alike to find fascinating employment.

Long-Term Care Facilities

Long-term care facilities appeal to individuals who appreciate continuity of care and working with the same faces over longer periods of time. These environments tend to be slower-paced than hospitals and offer less pressurized work environments. Nurses, health aides, physical therapists, and administrative professionals can find work in these facilities.

Non-profits

These locations often appeal to individuals wanting to work more on the business and/or policy side of things. Many non-profit organizations exist within the healthcare world that encourage awareness, education, and community involvement in specific health promotion and wellness causes. The American Heart Association acts as an example of this type of setting.

Physician Offices

Individuals looking for more traditional schedules often appreciate physician offices, as these typically follow 9-5 schedules. They also appeal to medical professionals who want to work with a smaller staff and see fewer patients throughout their days. Examples of common roles in these settings include registered nurse, x-ray technician, dental hygienist, and medical biller.

What are your strengths?

Patient Communication

Healthcare professionals in patient-facing roles must be able to communicate clearly and effectively with those they serve. This may involve teaching them or their families about prescriptions, demonstrating physical therapy movements, or explaining how to care for a wound.

Who needs it: Nearly all patient-facing careers, but absolutely critical for registered nurses, practical nurses, nurse practitioners, and occupational therapists.

Computer Literacy

The healthcare industry uses a number of mainstream and propriety software to manage patient data, scheduling, and billing. Because of this, individuals must have a thorough knowledge of both general computer use and specific programs.

Who needs it: Any professionals working in administrative roles, but also nurses and physicians entering patient data.

Leadership

Many healthcare positions exist as supervisory roles – especially ones requiring advanced degrees or existing experience – making it imperative that candidates know how to effectively manage and lead their staff.

Who needs it: No medical professional is an island; all individuals employed in this space must be able to work well with others.

Interpersonal Relations

No matter their position, healthcare professionals work with many different types of personalities and must be able to collaborate with them. While nurses interact with many different types of patients and colleagues, admin staff also work closely with medical and other admin staff.

Who needs it: No medical professional is an island; all individuals employed in this space must be able to work well with others.

Attention to Detail

Whether administering medications, taking x-rays, filling a cavity, or handling insurance claims, this industry demands attention to detail as a matter of course. Individuals must be focused on their task at hand at all times.

Who needs it: Anyone hoping to receive employment in the field must demonstrate this critical skill.

Medical Knowledge

Health professionals working on the medicine side must possess distinct sets of knowledge related to their job. Registered nurses must know how to draw blood, home health aides must know how to deal with bed sores, and sonographers must know what to look for in ultrasounds.

Who needs it: All individuals working directly with patients must possess medical knowledge, but even admin staff should know medical terminology.

Physical Stamina

Many roles in this field require employees to work long shifts, stay on their feet for hours, pick up heavy objects, and always be on the go. It's important for individuals considering these positions to have the stamina needed to hold the job long-term.

Who needs it: Nearly all patient-facing careers, but especially registered nurses, LPN/LVNs, home health aides, and veterinary technicians.

Conclusion

Although this guide contains plenty of actionable advice about healthcare careers and education in general, anyone truly considering this path needs to get specific information to make an informed decision. Prospective learners need to understand points of entry, projected growth rates, potential salaries, and, perhaps most importantly, educational requirements. Education is a major investment, but finding the right program can help get your foot into the door of a dream career. What do you want to become?

Clip Source: https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/whmis_ghs/general.html

WHMIS 2015- General Information

What is WHMIS?

WHMIS stands for the **Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System**. It is a comprehensive system for providing health and safety information on **hazardous** products intended for use, handling, or storage in Canadian workplaces.

WHMIS has aligned with the worldwide hazard communication system known as GHS – the **Globally Harmonized System** of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

What are the main parts of WHMIS?

The main components of WHMIS are hazard identification and product classification, labelling, **safety data sheets** (SDSs), and worker education and training.

Is WHMIS law?

Yes. WHMIS first became law in 1988 through a series of complementary federal, provincial and territorial legislation and regulations. This original system is identified as WHMIS 1988. Updates to implement GHS are referred to as WHMIS 2015.

What products does WHMIS cover?

The Hazardous Products Regulations set out specific hazard classification criteria. If a product covered by the Hazardous Products Act meets the criteria to be included in a hazard class or category, it is considered to be a “hazardous product”. All hazardous products used in the workplace are covered by the WHMIS regulations, and a WHMIS program, including education and training, must be in place.

Which products are not covered by WHMIS?

The exclusions under WHMIS 2015 are:

Explosives as defined in the Explosives Act.

- Cosmetic, device, drug or food as defined in the Food and Drugs Act.
- Pest control products as defined in the Pest Control Products Act.
- Consumer products as defined in the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act.
- Wood or products made of wood.
- Nuclear substances within the meaning of the Nuclear Safety and Control Act, that are radioactive.
- Hazardous waste being a hazardous product that is sold for recycling or recovery, or is intended for disposal.
- Tobacco and tobacco products as defined in the Tobacco Act.
- Manufactured articles.

Many of these products are covered under other legislation. Note that while a product may be exempt from the requirement to have a WHMIS label and SDS, employers must still provide education and training on health effects, safe use, and storage.

What are the suppliers' duties under WHMIS?

Suppliers are those organizations who, in the course of business, sell or import hazardous products. Suppliers must ensure the appropriate classification of hazardous products. This classification is determined based on comparison of all available hazard data for the ingredients or mixture to the WHMIS requirements as outlined in the Hazardous Products Regulations (WHMIS 2015).

When a product is considered to be a "hazardous product", the supplier must label the product or container and they must provide a safety data sheet (SDS) to their customers. The purpose of the label is to clearly identify the hazardous product, the supplier, the hazards and precautionary measures. The SDS provides more information about that product.

What are the employers' duties under WHMIS?

When a hazardous product is used in the workplace, employers are required to:

- Educate and train workers on the hazards and safe use of products.
- Ensure that hazardous products are properly labelled.
- Prepare workplace labels, as needed.
- Prepare SDSs, as necessary (e.g., if an employer manufactures a hazardous product that is used on-site).
- Provide access to up-to-date SDSs to workers.
- Ensure appropriate control measures are in place to protect the health and safety of workers.

What are the workers' duties under WHMIS?

Workers will participate in WHMIS education and training programs, take necessary steps to protect themselves and their co-workers, and participate in identifying and controlling hazards.