

INVESTIGATING CAREER CLUSTERS



Health

What Is the Health Cluster?

Occupations in the health cluster provide services to meet people's physical and mental health needs. Careers include: physicians, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, health technologists, and technicians.

Skills Needed

science skills, physical and emotional stamina, decision-making skills, math skills, and desire to help the sick and injured

| THE FACTS | Types of Careers in This Cluster | Work Description | Career Outlook | Education |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| | Chiropractor | Treat people by massaging muscles and manipulating bones, especially in the spine | Faster than average | Chiropractic program, state license |
| | Pharmacist | Provide drugs and medicines that are ordered by doctors | Slower than average | Pharmacist program |
| | Dental hygienist | Provide care such as cleaning teeth, take and develop X rays, and explain care of the mouth to patients | Much faster than average | Dental hygiene program, state license |
| | Radiological technologist | Operate X-ray machines that produce X rays of the brain and other parts of body | Faster than average | Associate's degree |
| | Physician | Perform medical examinations; diagnose illnesses; treat people who are sick | Faster than average | Medical school degree, three-year residency |
| | Emergency medical technician | Give immediate care, and then transport the sick or injured to medical facilities | Much faster than average | EMT-basic training program |

ACTIVITY

Your goal: Match the professions with the professionals.

What to think about: Think about all the people in the health care area. Do you know what all of them do?

What to do: Play the “Who am I?” game in health careers. If you do not know who these people are, use your dictionary to find out. Choose from the following list and then write the title of the medical professional in the spaces below:

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| PSYCHOLOGIST | NEUROSURGEON | RADIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIST |
| PHYSICIAN | PHYSICAL THERAPIST | OPTOMETRIST |
| PHARMACIST | EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN | |
| DENTAL HYGIENIST | PEDIATRICIAN | |

| What I do. | Who am I? |
|--|-----------|
| 1. I examine people's eyes and prescribe glasses. | |
| 2. I produce X-ray films of parts of the human body for use in diagnosing medical problems. | |
| 3. I fill prescriptions for drugs. | |
| 4. I clean teeth and provide other dental care. | |
| 5. I give immediate care to injured persons and transport them to medical facilities. | |
| 6. I evaluate and treat mental and emotional disorders. | |
| 7. I diagnose illnesses and prescribe and give treatment to people suffering from injury or disease. | |
| 8. I help to improve the mobility and relieve pain in patients suffering from injury or disease. | |
| 9. I perform surgery on the nerves, the brain, and the spinal cord. | |
| 10. I deal with the development, care, and diseases of children. | |

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What do you think of the jobs in this cluster? Do you think you might like to work in one of them? If so, which one?

2. How do the people who work in this cluster help you, your family, and your community? Explain in one paragraph.
