

**UNIVERSITY OF BASRA
AL-ZAHRA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
FIRST STAGE
FOURTH LECTURE**

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Unit 6 Medical Practitioners 2

- The people who work in any type of workplace, including hospitals, are called the **staff**. The medical staff in a British hospital belongs to one of four main groups:
- 1. A newly graduated doctor in the first year of postgraduate training is called a **pre-registration house officer (PRHO)**, or **house officer**. After a year he/she becomes a **registered medical practitioner**. In the Foundation Programme, which is the current system of training, these junior doctors are called **Foundation Year 1 doctor (FY1)**

- Doctors in the second year of postgraduate training are called **senior house officer (SHO)**. Another title is **Foundation Year 2 doctor (FY2)**.
- 3. The doctor who has completed the Foundation Programme and is training in one of the medical specialties is called **specialist registrar (SpR)**. There are also some non-training registrars-doctors who have completed their training but do not wish to specialize yet.

- 4. A fully qualified specialist is called a **consultant**. There may also be some associate specialists-senior doctors who do not wish to become consultants. In addition, there is at least one medical (or clinical) director, who is responsible for all of the medical staff.

Medical Teams

- Consultant physicians and surgeons are responsible for a specific number of patients in the hospital. Each consultant has a team of junior doctors to help care for those patients.

- In many hospitals, there are **multidisciplinary teams** which consist not only of doctors but also of physiotherapists and other allied health professionals.
- Junior doctors are usually the first to see admitted patients to hospitals on the ward where they will receive treatment and care. The junior doctor clerks them, that is he/she takes their medical history, and examines them. Some time later, the registrar also sees the patients, and may order investigations or tests, for example x-rays or an ECG, makes a provisional diagnosis, and begins treatment.

- The consultant usually sees the new admissions-people who have recently been admitted to the ward-for the first time on one of the regular ward rounds, when the management of the patients is discussed with the registrar. Consultants also decide when the patient is ready to be discharged (sent home). On the ward round, the consultant is accompanied by the team and a nurse, and they visit all the patients in the consultant's care.

Shifts

- Junior doctors work in shifts, which means they work for eight hours every day, for example 7 am to 3 pm, and are then free until 7 am the next day. After a week they change to a different shift, for example 3 pm to 11 pm or 11 pm to 7 pm.

- The alternative system is to work from 9 am to 5 pm every day and to take turns to be on call-available to return to the hospital if necessary-from 5 pm to 9 am the next day. Days on call are set out in a **rota**, or list of names and times. Doctors on call carry a radio pager, or bleeper, a device which makes a noise when someone is trying to contact them.

6.1 Make word combinations using a word from each box. Look at A, B and C opposite to help you.

associate
house
on
provisional
radio
ward

call
diagnosis
officer
pager
round
specialist

6.2 Match the descriptions (1–5) with the job titles (a–e). Look at A and B opposite to help you.

- 1 Dr Graham has been a paediatrician for eight years and is responsible for treating the children admitted to Ward 60.
- 2 Dr Stewart has just started the second year of her Foundation Programme.
- 3 Dr Singh has started his training as a surgeon.
- 4 Dr Phillips has just graduated and is working in a large hospital in Birmingham.
- 5 Dr Millar is in charge of the medical staff in the Birmingham hospital.

- a specialist registrar
- b medical director
- c consultant
- d SHO
- e PRHO or house officer

6.3 Are the following statements true or false? Find reasons for your answers in A, B and C opposite.

- 1 A medical graduate becomes registered two years after graduation.
- 2 The system of training doctors in Britain is called the Foundation Programme.
- 3 The name senior house officer is no longer used in Britain.
- 4 The consultant is usually the first doctor to see new patients.
- 5 When working in shifts, all doctors take turns to be on call.

6.4 Complete the text of a PRHO describing her job. Look at A, B and C opposite to help you.

When I get to the ward, the first thing I do is talk to the house officer who was on duty during the last (1), to find out if there have been any new (2), . Then I generally see the charge nurse. He tells me if there is anything that needs to be done urgently, such as intravenous lines to put up or take down. Later in the morning, I (3) any new patients, which basically involves taking a history. On Tuesday and Friday morning the consultant does her ward (4), and I have to make sure I'm completely up to date on her patients. After that, there are usually lots of things to do, like writing up request forms for blood (5), and so on. In the afternoon, I have to prepare for any patients who are to be (6) the next day. They're usually happy to be going home! And then of course there are the lectures and tutorials in the (7) programme on Monday and Wednesday.


Over to you



How does the hospital training of doctors in your country differ from the British system?
How would you explain it to a colleague from another country?

Unit 7 Nurses

- What do nurses do?
- What are nursing grades?
- What do the titles Sister and matron stand for?
- What is a clinical support worker?
- What are the specializations of nurses?

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- Nurses are responsible for general patient care, checking temperatures, pulse rates and blood pressures, changing dressings, giving injections and removing sutures. In addition, nurses now prescribe drugs and order laboratory tests.

Nursing Grades

- **Student nurse:** a nurse who is still in training
- **Staff nurse:** a nurse who has completed the training course
- **Charge nurse:** a more experienced nurse who is in charge of a ward or department
- **Nurse manager:** a nurse who is in charge of several wards
- **Sister** is a term used to denote a female charge nurse. **Matron** is used to denote a female nurse manager.

Support workers

- Certain workers support the nursing staff:
- **Clinical support workers** who do a short course to obtain basic qualifications.
- **Nursing auxiliaries** are usually unqualified.
- **Ward clerks** who make sure that patients' notes and information are up to date. In addition, they answer the phone.

Nurses' Specializations

- **Midwife:** This involves doing a course in midwifery, the management of pregnancy and childbirth.
- **District nurses:** They visit patients in their homes.
- **Health visitors:** They work in the community, giving advice on the promotion of health and the prevention of illness.

The verbs *perform* and *carry out* are used with all types of procedures. They are often used in the passive form, e.g.

Perform/ carry out (a procedure/ an operation/ a procedure/ an experiment/ a test/ a biopsy)

- The procedure was performed/ carried out by a nurse.

7.1 Complete the sentences. Look at A, B and C opposite to help you.

- 1 Someone who specializes in delivering babies is a
- 2 Someone who is qualified to assist nurses is a
- 3 Someone who is not qualified but is able to assist nurses is a
- 4 A nurse who has qualified is a nurse.
- 5 A nurse who specializes in health promotion is a
- 6 A nurse who looks after a ward is a nurse.
- 7 A nurse who works in the community is a nurse.
- 8 Someone who answers the ward telephone is a

7.2 Make word combinations using a word or phrase from each box. Look at D opposite to help you.

carry out
change
check
give
remove

sutures
a procedure
an injection
a dressing
the temperature

7.3 Complete the sentences with the correct grammatical form of *perform*.

- 1 An isotope brain scan is painless and easy
- 2 Biopsy of the pancreas last March.
- 3 If the patient's condition deteriorates, a laparotomy should
- 4 If a diagnosis of meningitis is suspected a lumbar puncture must
- 5 Last year we a randomized, double blind group study.

7.4 Complete the sentences with the correct grammatical form of *carry out*.

- 1 I now intend a larger study.
- 2 Unfortunately few properly controlled trials so far.
- 3 A number of studies recently to look at this question.
- 4 A right hemicolectomy and the patient made a full recovery.
- 5 This procedure can in the emergency department.



Over to you



What kind of tasks do nurses carry out in your country? Are nurses' responsibilities increasing? What are the implications of this?

