Healthcare Careers

* <https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Healthcare.States.082212.pdf> Healthcare state report
* For more information on healthcare careers go to Youtube and search ihealthcare careers

Let’s take someone who goes to their doctor and the doctor tells them they must have surgery.  There are many medical staff members they will encounter, and many more that work behind the scenes to ensure that their care will go well:

* their doctor (Medical School),
* the medical assistant (1 year certificate) that assists their doctor,
* the front desk person at the doctors office (on-the-job training),
* the business manager of the physicians offices in the clinic (bachelor or masters degree in business)
* the environmental services person cleaning the offices (on-the-job training)
* the people who process the insurance claim from the visit (will go through several people who may have on the job training to a bachelors degree)
* the nurses at the surgical site and on the floor in recovery (some will have associate and some bachelors degrees, at least 4 different specialty areas within nursing would be represented here)
* the surgeon and the anesthesiologist (Medical school)
* the OR tech who is the surgeon’s assistant (1 year certificate training)
* the Sterile processing techs who clean and sterilize the surgical instruments between procedures and take care of all surgical supplies (on the job training)
* the radiology technologist who takes x-rays (4 year degree - used to be 2 year program), respiratory therapist who helps after surgery to ensure regular breathing occurs (4 year degree - used to be 2 year program)
* the pharmacy for follow-up medications, the cafeteria staff for family members to eat while waiting, the people making sure the medical record is translated into billing (Coders – 1-2 years school) and the billing staff working with insurance company (on the job training), and there are more!

One of the areas above that most people don’t think about is the sterile processing techs, who train on the job and who have several levels available for upward movement just by taking a national exam.  This is a critical position because the instruments used in surgery MUST be sterile, and so a very rigorous procedure is followed every time with a large staff each doing their part to take the instruments through the process.   A graduate of high school who is 18 can begin here, and while they are going to school be engaged in an area they enjoy, is challenging and offers helpful learning for next steps.  Or, stay in this profession their whole career and become the expert, the manager, etc.

Did you know that many Utah hospitals and medical clinics offer the benefit of tuition reimbursement for employees that have worked with their business for one year or more and want further education to move up the career ladder?

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