

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health



# Dictionary of Callels Dictionary of Callels



Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health



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## Content



Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health

This document is intended for use by students, teachers, parents, persons interested in pursuing careers in health and for general information about the various careers that are available in the health sector of Trinidad and Tobago.

The dictionary has been formatted to be user-friendly and to provide readers with a basic understanding of the particular job, the qualification requirements and the general duties that are performed in the area. Sub-specialties are included, where applicable.

The document does not purport to be a replacement for detailed information on the various career fields nor is it intended to be used as a job description. Its focus is to provide readers with a clear understanding of the field and to guide them to possible career options in the health sector that may suit their interests and disposition.

This dictionary has benefited from the support and assistance of experts in the various health-related fields. Their technical expertise has ensured that this document is truly representative of the careers in the sector. The dictionary is divided into three broad classifications: Medical, Allied and Auxiliary and the careers that fall under each are alphabetically presented. The ease of reference will facilitate the sourcing of the information and the simple language is intended to be clear to all audiences. In addition, the careers profiled in this dictionary are also available online at www.health.gov.tt.

We wish to thank all who have contributed to the development of this dictionary and we look forward to working with you to revise and update this reference book in the future. We anticipate that our readers will find the information herein useful as they consider careers paths in healthcare.

"Our greatest happiness does not depend on the condition of life in which chance has placed us, but is always the result of a good conscience, good health, occupation, and freedom in all just pursuits."

~ Thomas Jefferson

FOREWO

Ministry of Health November 2011 • Dictionary of Careers IN THE HEALTH SECTOR



Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health



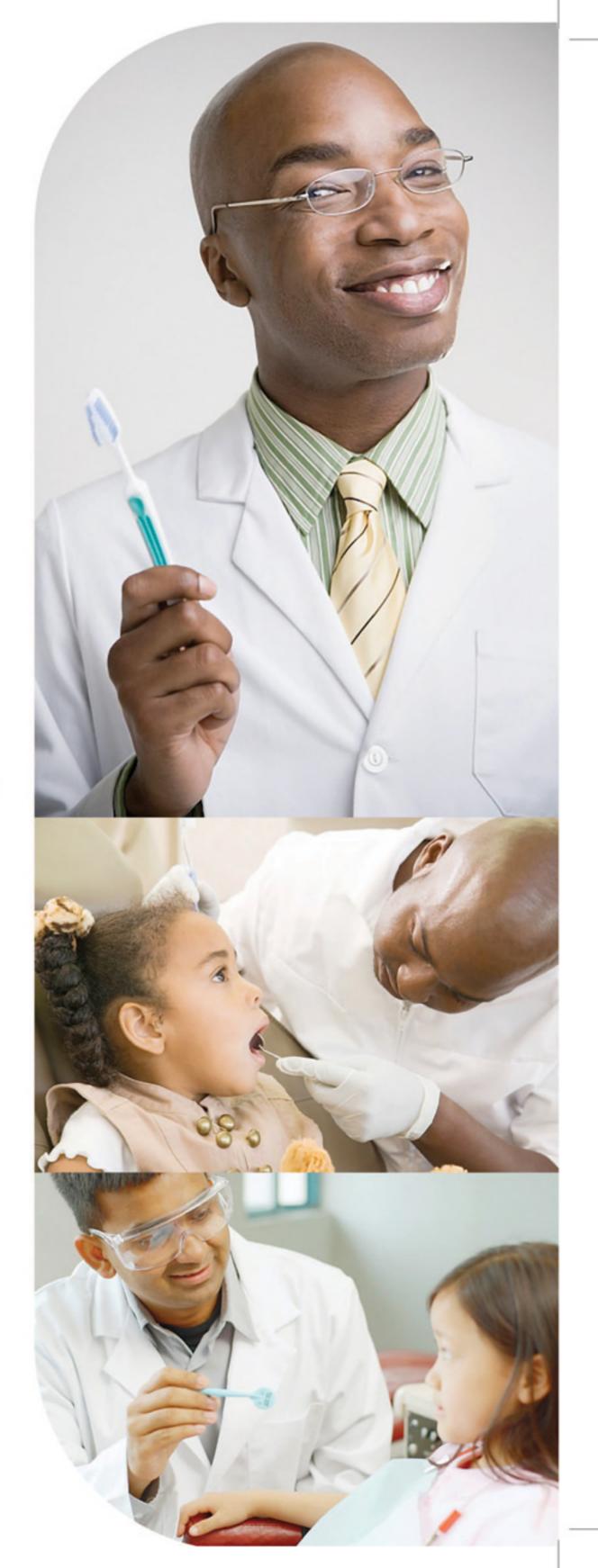
## Medical Health Careers

Professions that deal with the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of physical and mental disorders caused by disease or injury.

## 6 • Dictionary of Careers IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

### DENTISTRY

Dentistry is the branch of medicine that involves diagnosing, preventing and treating conditions of the oral cavity (teeth, gums and related structure of the mouth). Dentistry not only aids in improving the general health of the patient but also their overall social well-being.



# DENTISTRY

#### SPECIALTIES AND DUTIES

#### GENERAL DENTISTRY:

- Treats and prevents tooth decay, gum disease, crowding.
- Takes x-rays to examine any underlying problems.
- Diagnoses the causes of dental problems and prescribes appropriate dental care.
- Performs fillings, root canals, replaces missing teeth with dentures, bridges or implants.
- Makes appropriate referrals to specialists and monitors the patients' progress.
- Gives advice on good oral care.

#### **MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON:**

- Qualified in both medicine and dentistry.
- Treats diseases, cancers, trauma and abnormalities in the head and neck.
- Surgically improves jaw relationships.

#### **ORAL SURGEON:**

- Treats the results of physical trauma, removes impacted wisdom teeth and decayed teeth and removes cysts and tumors in the jaws.
- May place implants to replace missing teeth.
- Surgically improves jaw relationships.

#### **ORTHODONTIST:**

- Improves both the function and appearance of crowded and displaced teeth.
- Improves the relationship of the upper and lower jaws.

#### PEDODONTIST:

- Provides dental care in children up to the early teens.
- Educates children and parents in preventative dental care.
- May treat those with special needs.

#### PERIODONTIST:

- Treats diseases of the gums, bones and tissues supporting the teeth.
- Places implants to replace missing teeth.
- Uses artificial bone to replace the bone lost due to gum disease.
- Places grafts to replace damaged gum tissue.

#### **PROSTHODONTIST:**

Constructs crowns, bridges, implants or dentures to replace missing teeth.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH DENTIST:

- Prevents and controls dental disease and promotes dental health through community efforts.
- Often manages a dental team of dental health educators, dental hygienists and dental nurses to provide dental care to a community.
- Designs and performs research into dental health care.

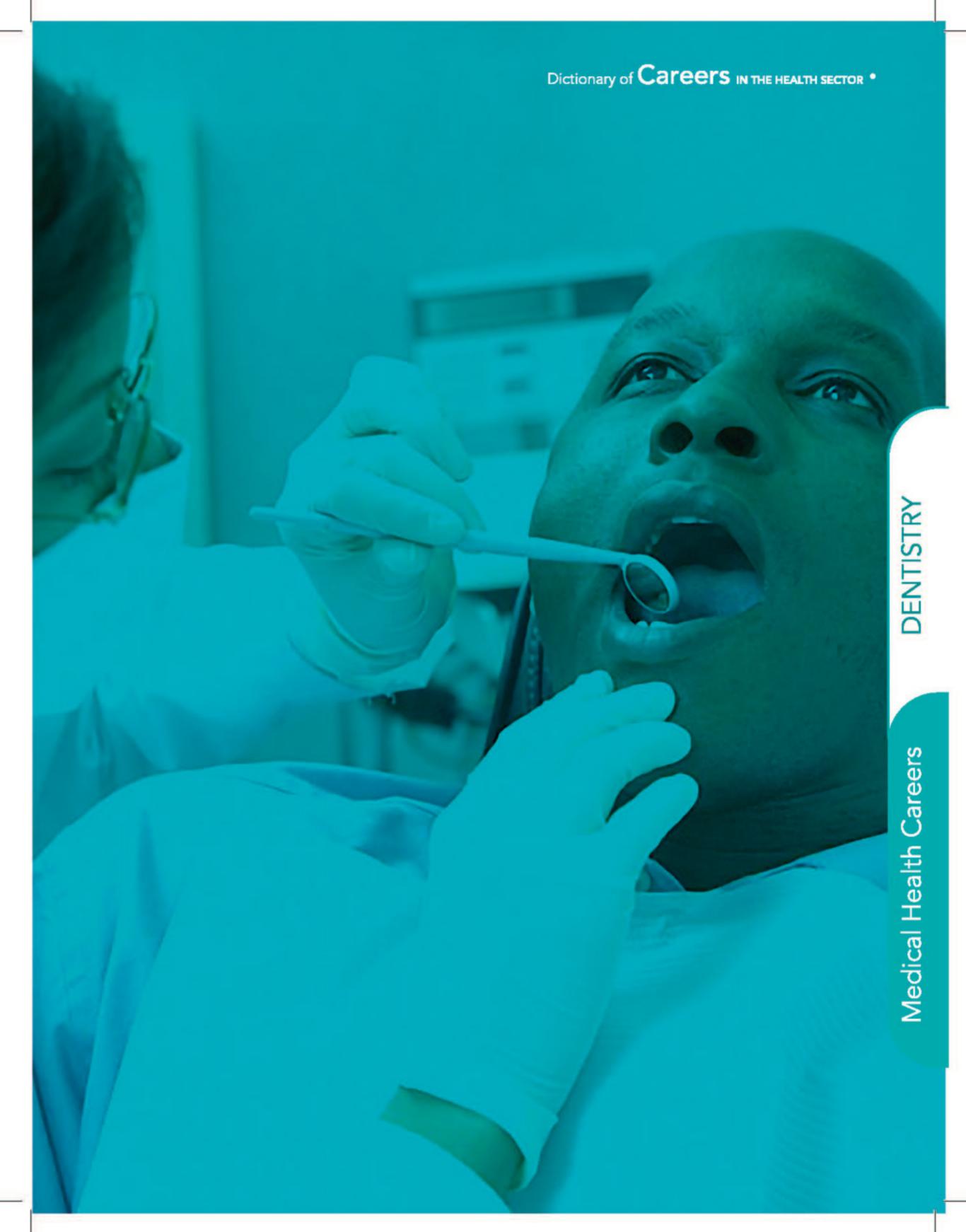
#### QUALIFICATIONS

- CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English, Psychology, Social Sciences, Information Technology and Statistics.
- Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD).
- Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS).
- Baccalaureus Chirurgiae Dental (BCh.D).

#### **PROFILE**

The following personal qualities are essential to becoming a successful Dentist:

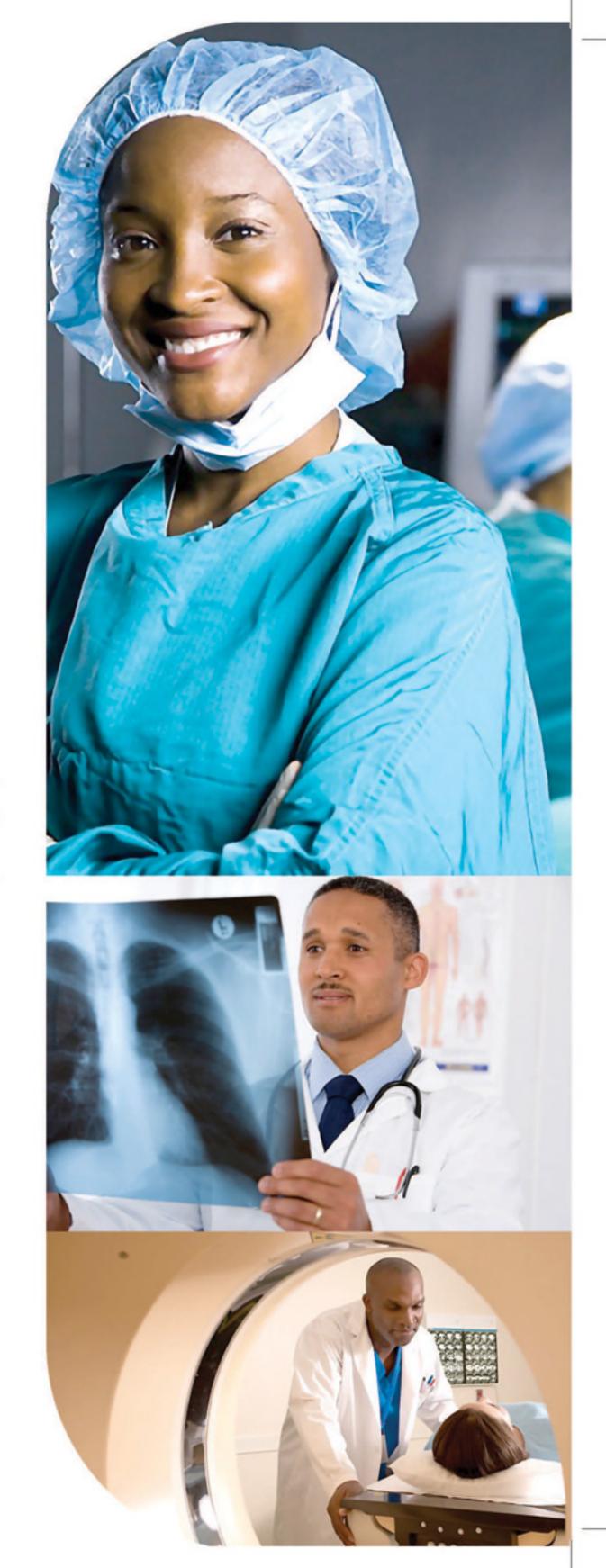
- Manual precision: Steady hands are important when performing minute actions. Hands must also be
  dexterous and have muscular endurance for long procedures. Attention to detail is critical.
- Communication and people skills: Excellent communication skills are required to explain procedures
  to the patient to allow him/her to make informed choices as well as to advise the patient clearly and to
  accurately interpret any questions he/she may have.
- Empathy and patience: Showing empathy allows patients to trust the dentist and therefore makes
  the procedure less stressful for both parties involved. Similarly, patience to deal with and calm anxious
  patients is beneficial.
- Cleanliness: A dentist should have good hygiene and a clean and bright treatment room, so that
  patients will feel confident that they are being treated in a germ free environment.
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills: Dentists should be able to assess the problem the patient is experiencing and determine the best possible treatment to be taken.
- Ability to work well under pressure: The ability to work quickly and efficiently without becoming
  overwhelmed is especially important in emergency situations.



## 10 • Dictionary of Careers in the HEALTH SECTOR MEDICINE

### MEDICINE

A doctor, also known as a physician or medical doctor, diagnoses and treats the health problems of individuals. Medicine is a very broad field with many specialisations.



#### SPECIALTIES AND DUTIES

#### **ANAESTHESIOLOGY**

#### An Anaesthesiologist:

- Administers sedation and/or anesthesia to a patient for the purpose of blocking pain: local and general anesthesia.
- Assesses patient's pain management requirements before and after surgery.
- Assesses patient's medical status and determines its effect on the anesthesia or vice versa.
- Decides on the type and intensity of drugs to be administered.
- Monitors patient's vital signs while under anesthesia.

#### **CARDIOLOGY**

#### A cardiologist:

- Diagnoses and treats diseases of the cardiovascular system (heart, veins and arteries).
- Gives advice on preventative methods.
- Closely monitors patients with a history of heart disease.
- Conducts various tests to determine the health status of the cardiovascular system.

#### **DERMATOLOGY**

#### A dermatologist:

- Diagnoses and treats diseases of the skin, scalp, hair and nails.
- Performs cosmetic procedures e.g. administering Botox, face lifts, chemical scrubs and other related treatments.
- Gives advice on proper care for the skin, scalp, hair and nails.

#### GASTROENTEROLOGY

#### A gastroenterologist:

Cares for conditions of the digestive system including the stomach, throat, intestines and colon.
 Gives advice on proper practices.

#### **GENERAL PRACTICE**

#### The general practitioner:

- Diagnoses and treats individuals and families within a community.
- Treats patients over an extended period of time; keeps medical records of patients.
- Gives advice on healthcare and prevention of diseases.
- Conducts minor surgeries.
- Carries out or refers for special testing e.g. x-rays.
- Refers to specialist health services e.g. skin care specialist (Dermatologist)
- Administers and prescribes antibiotics and other medication.
- Fills out medical forms/certificates allowing patients to claim for benefits.
- Administers immunizations.
- SUB-SPECIALTIES:
  - Emergency Medicine (Treats persons requiring immediate care)
  - Sports Medicine (Treats injuries related to sporting activities)
  - Pediatrics (Child Medicine)
  - Geriatrics (Elderly Medicine)
  - Forensic Medicine (Interprets/establishes medical facts for legal purposes)
  - Internal Medicine (Prevents, treats and diagnoses adult diseases).
  - Telemedicine (Uses technology for medical consultation and patient care)
  - Podiatric/Chiropody Medicine (Treats and cares for the foot and ankle)









#### GENERAL SURGERY

#### A general surgeon:

Specializes in surgery of the abdominal regions.

#### HAEMATOLOGY

#### A haematologist:

- Studies blood and blood forming organs.
- Diagnoses, treats and prevents blood diseases.

#### IMMUNOLOGY

#### An immunologist:

Studies the immune system in order to treat and control any diseases or deficiencies.

#### **NEPHROLOGY**

#### A nephrologist:

Diagnoses and treats diseases of the kidneys and related organs.

#### NEUROSURGERY/NEUROLOGY

#### A neurosurgeon/neurologist:

- Treats diseases of the nervous system; brain, spinal cord, peripheral and sympathetic nervous system.
- Concerned with the prevention, diagnosis and rehabilitation of the disorders that affect the nervous system.

#### **NUCLEAR MEDICINE**

#### A nuclear medicine doctor:

- Uses small amounts of nuclear elements to diagnose or treat diseases such as cancer.
- Uses non-invasive imaging procedures to diagnose conditions.

#### **OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY**

#### An Obstetrician/Gynaecologist:

- Gives medical treatment for problems of the female reproductive system.
- Cares for women during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium (period shortly after birth).
- Performs surgery when necessary.
- Gives advice on family planning and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.







#### **ONCOLOGY**

#### An oncologist:

- Diagnoses, treats and cares for persons with cancer.
- Determines appropriate treatment.
- Gives advice on coping and care.
- SUBSPECIALTIES:
  - Radiation Oncology (Cares for patients using radiation treatment)
  - Medical Oncology (Uses chemotherapy, hormonal therapy and biological therapy)
  - Surgical Oncology (Uses a surgical treatment for cancers)
  - Paediatric Oncology (Treats children and adolescents with cancer)
  - Gynaecological Oncology (Treats and manages persons with gynaecological cancers)

#### **ORTHOPEDICS**

#### An orthopaedist:

- Diagnoses and treats abnormalities and diseases of the Musculoskeletal System.
- Uses surgical and non-surgical means to treat injuries or diseases.

#### OTOLARYNGOLOGY (E.N.T: EARS, NOSE, THROAT)

#### An otolaryngologist:

Treats allergies, sinus infections, voice disorders and cancers of the head and neck.

#### **PATHOLOGY**

#### A pathologist:

- Studies human diseases and conditions.
- Studies the effects of those diseases on the body as well as the effect of treatment on the disease.

#### **PSYCHIATRY**

#### A psychiatrist:

 Diagnoses and treats persons with mental and behavioural illnesses through medication and psychotherapy.

#### **PULMONOLOGY**

#### A pulmonologist:

Diagnoses and treats diseases and disorders of the respiratory system.

#### **RADIOLOGY**

#### A radiologist:

Uses imaging technologies to diagnose and treat diseases within the body through visualization.

# Careers Medical Health

MEDICINE

#### UROLOGY

#### A urologist:

- Diagnoses and treats anomalies and diseases of the urinary tract in men and women.
- Diagnoses and treats conditions of the male reproductive system.

#### VENEREOLOGY

#### A venereologist:

- Diagnoses and treats sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS.
- Gives advice on safe sex practices and care.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Entry requirements include courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English, Psychology, Social Sciences, Computer and Statistics.
- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)
- Postgraduate training is required for Specialty areas

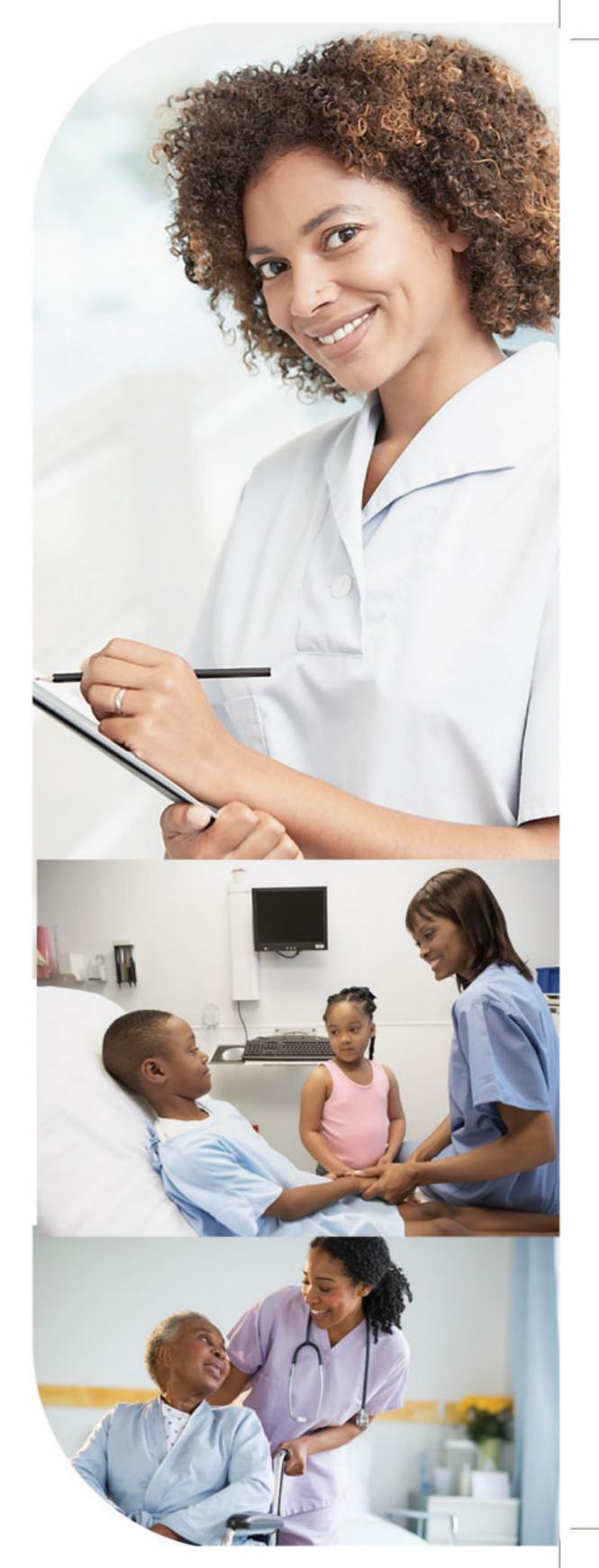
#### PROFILE

The following personal qualities are essential to becoming a successful medical doctor:

- Communication and people skills: Excellent communication skills are required to explain procedures to the patient, advise them clearly and accurately interpret any questions they may have. Awareness and understanding of other cultures and their attitudes towards medical treatment are also important.
- Empathy and patience: Showing empathy allows patients to trust the doctor and therefore makes the procedure less stressful for the both doctor and patient. Similarly, patience to deal with and calm anxious patients is beneficial.
- Manual Precision: Steady hands are important when performing minute actions. Hands must also be dexterous and have muscular endurance for long procedures. A soft touch is also beneficial in reducing pain and allowing the patient to relax during examination.
- Cleanliness: Good hygiene is important in avoiding further infections to the patient and the practitioner.
- Data-analysis skills: These skills are important when reading and interpreting medical laboratory tests to determine and understand the problem.
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills: Should be able to assess the problem the patient is experiencing and determine the best possible treatment to be administered.
- Ability to work well under pressure: The ability to work quickly and efficiently without becoming overwhelmed is important, especially in emergency situations.

## NURSING

Nursing involves assessing, treating, caring for and supporting patients' medical needs.



#### SPECIALTIES AND DUTIES

#### **GENERAL NURSE**

- Reviews patients medical history.
- Monitors patients and records important changes.
- Provides treatment and care.
- Administers and monitors intravenous drugs.
- Monitors equipment.
- Prepares paperwork such as release forms.
- Advises patients' on proper healthcare and wound treatments.

#### **MIDWIFERY**

- Diagnoses, monitors and cares for women during pregnancy.
- Identifies risks in pregnancy and refer to other professionals if necessary.
- Supervises and assists in childbirth.
- Gives advice on antenatal, postnatal and child care.

#### MENTAL HEALTH NURSE

- Admits and diagnoses clients.
- Conducts follow-up treatment.
- Administers medication and observes client.
- Monitors nutrition of client.
- Monitors the social interactions of client.
- Ensures client is visited by relatives so family therapy can be administered.

#### NURSE PRACTITIONER

- Diagnoses, treats and manages chronic diseases such as diabetes.
- Conducts physical exams.
- Orders, conducts and interprets laboratory tests such as x-rays.
- Prescribes and administers certain medication.
- Conducts minor surgeries such as sutures.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE**

- Assesses health issues in schools and communities.
- Refers patients to specialist services where necessary.
- Provides advice and education on disease prevention.
- Administers immunization.
- Follows up on patients with chronic diseases.

# NURSING

Careers

Medical Health

#### CRITICAL CARE NURSE

Is trained to treat the acutely or critically ill patient/client in any setting with the appropriate technology within the healthcare environment.

#### DISTRICT HEALTH VISITOR

Is a nurse whose job is to visit people at their homes and offer advice on matters such as how to care for very young babies or people with physical disabilities.

#### ENROLLED NURSING ASSISTANT

- Serves as a general assistant to a Registered Nurse.
- Oversees personal hygiene of patients.
- Takes simple readings from patient such as weight, height, and blood pressure.
- Dresses superficial wounds.
- Reports changes in patient's condition to Registered Nurse

#### INFECTION CONTROL NURSE

Is prepared at the Post Basic level to provide high quality care to patients/clients in any healthcare setting, who have been diagnosed with cancer at any stage of its development.

#### INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (ICU) NURSE

Provides extensive care for patients with serious illnesses.

#### PAEDIATRIC NURSE

Responsible for overall patient care of infants, children and adolescents. Pediatric nursing jobs exist within pediatric doctors' offices, medical clinics, hospitals, community centers, schools and day cares. This branch of nursing demands that pediatric nurses are patient, nurturing and observant of injuries and illnesses that commonly occur within younger patients.

#### ONCOLOGY NURSE

Is prepared at the Post Basic level to provide high quality care to patients/clients in any healthcare setting, who have been diagnosed with cancer at any stage of its development.

#### RENAL NURSE

Focuses on working with patients who have kidney disease, which is typically brought on by diabetes, hypertension and/or substance abuse.

#### SCHOOL NURSE

Is a health professional that has successfully completed the prescribed programme in School Nursing. He/she facilitates positive student responses to normal development; promotes health and safety; intervenes with actual and potential health problems; provides case management services; and actively collaborates with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning.

#### TRAUMA AND EMERGENCY NURSE

Provides emergency nursing care through the application of the nursing process to patients of all ages requiring stabilization and/or resuscitation for a variety of illnesses and injuries.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

#### REGISTERED NURSE

- Five (5) Ordinary Level subjects in G.C.E or CXC (inclusive of English A, Mathematics and a Science)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Registration with the Nursing Council of Trinidad and Tobago
- Three to five years clinical experience is required before moving onto a Specialty

#### ENROLLED NURSING ASSISTANT

- Three (3) Ordinary Level subjects in G.C.E or CXC (inclusive of English A)
- Successful completion of the Nursing Assistant Training Programme
- Registration with the Nursing Council of Trinidad and Tobago

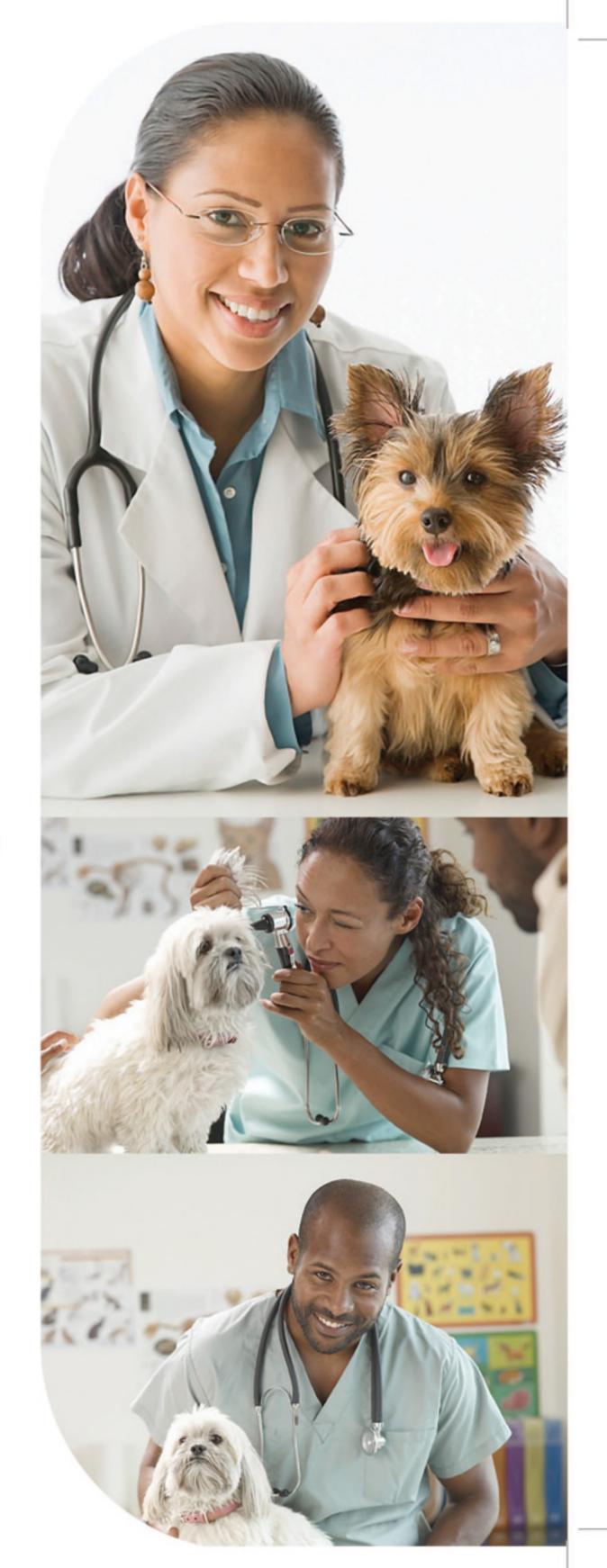
#### **PROFILE**

- Manual precision: Steady, dexterous hands are important when performing minute actions. Must also have muscular endurance for long procedures.
- Communication and people skills: Excellent communication skills are required to explain procedures to the patient, clearly advise him/her and accurately interpret any questions he/she may have.
- Empathy and patience: Showing empathy allows patients to become more comfortable with the
  optometrist. Similarly, patience to deal with and calm anxious patients is beneficial.
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills: Should be able to assess the problem the patient is
  experiencing and determine the best possible course of action to be taken.
- Ability to work well under pressure: The ability to work quickly and efficiently without becoming overwhelmed.



### VETERINARY MEDICINE

Veterinary medicine is the application of medical, diagnostic and therapeutic principles to companion, domestic, exotic, wildlife and production animals.



#### SPECIALTIES AND DUTIES

- Diagnose and treat health problems of animals.
- Work with owners to promote proper healthcare and disease prevention.
- Prescribe and administer medication.
- · Perform surgeries/autopsies on animals.
- Work with owners of production animals to meet their breeding goals.
- Set standards for the import/export of animals.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Entry requirements include CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and English
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree

#### **PROFILE**

Veterinarians should:

- Be understanding
- Be patient
- Possess the ability to handle animals
- · Have concern for animals
- Possess excellent communication skills
- Have decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Be able to work well under pressure

Dictionary of Careers in the HEALTH SECTOR



Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health



## Allied Health Careers

Professions that provide direct patient care and support, through technical, diagnostic and therapeutic services that compliment other health care professions.

## AUDIOLOGY

Audiologists apply various tests in order to evaluate hearing loss and balance issues. They also recommend treatments such as rehabilitation through counseling and fitting hearing aids.



#### SPECIALTY AREAS

EDUCATIONAL AUDIOLOGY
DIAGNOSTIC AND REHABILITATIVE AUDIOLOGY
THEORETICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL AUDIOLOGY
PREVENTATIVE AUDIOLOGY

#### **DUTIES**

- · Physically examine the patient's inner and outer ear.
- Conduct hearing tests using specialized equipment.
- Measurement of hearing sensitivity of patient of all ages using pure tone Audiometry, Immittance Audiometry, Behavioral Observation Audiometry, Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry (BERA), Otoacoustic Emission (OAE) & Auditory Steady State Response (ASSR).
- Administration & interpretation of detailed audiological diagnostic procedure such as TDT, SISI, STAT, including test for Pseudohypacusis and central auditory dysfunction.
- Diagnosis & management of Tinnitus.
- Development of hearing conservation programmes in industry and in other areas. Measurement of environmental noise.
- Assist in clinical diagnosis of hearing/ balance problems.
- Recommend suitable hearing aid and ensure comfortable fit.
- Advise on the use and care of hearing aid.
- Assist during surgery for implants to the ear.
- Pre and post assessment as well as management of subjects with Cochlear Implants (CI).

#### QUALIFICATIONS

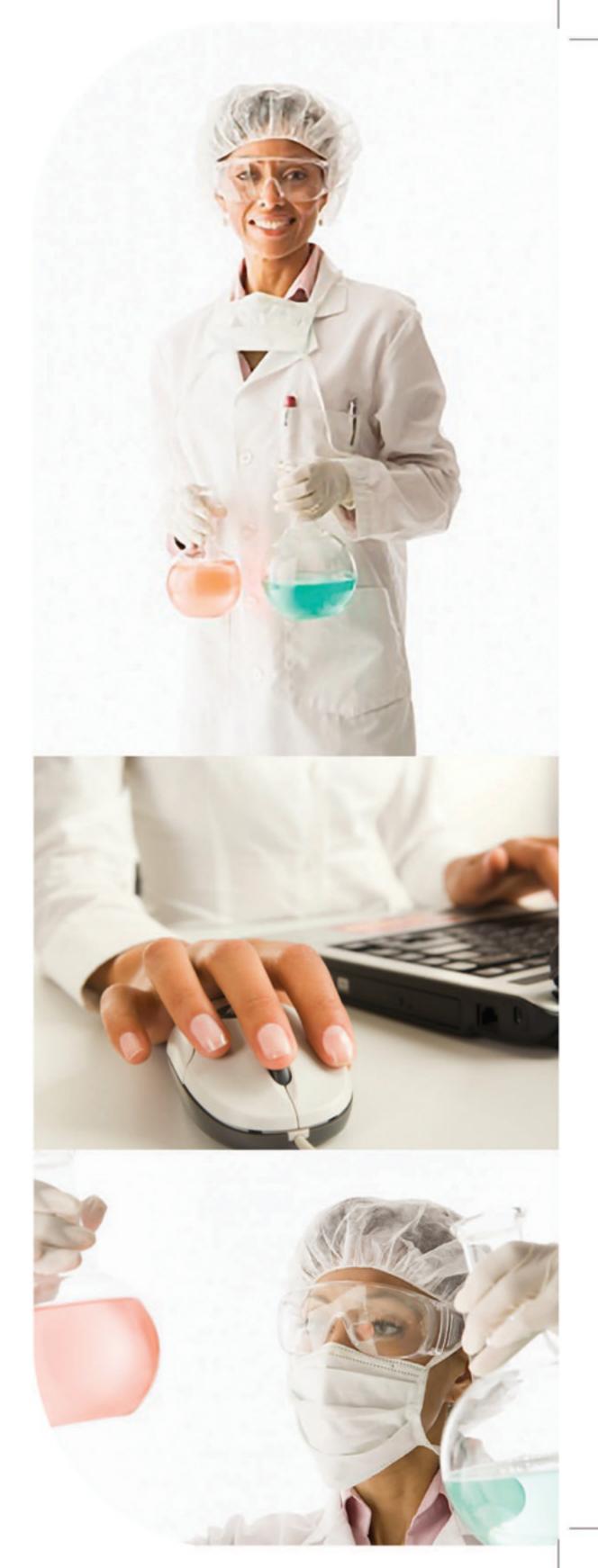
- Master of Audiology/ Doctor of Audiology
- Hearing Aid Audiologist
   There is a minimum qualification (Bachelor of Science in Audiology) required to be a Hearing Aid
   Audiologist (Audiologists who test, fit or adjust hearing aids in the private sector) in the UK to gain
   registration with the hearing aid council.

#### **PROFILE**

- · Good communication skills, especially clear speech
- Sensitive to the issues of patients
- · Ability to work well in teams
- Manual dexterity to handle small equipment

### **BIOCHEMISTRY**

Biochemistry is the study of the chemical constituents of living cells and the reactions and processes they undergo. It is a combination of Chemistry and Biology with the aim of understanding the structure and behaviour of biomolecules.



#### **DUTIES**

- Develop new test methods.
- Prepare reports based on experiments or observations.
- Manage laboratory personnel and ensure quality work is done.
- Assist doctors and /or other health professionals with ongoing research.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

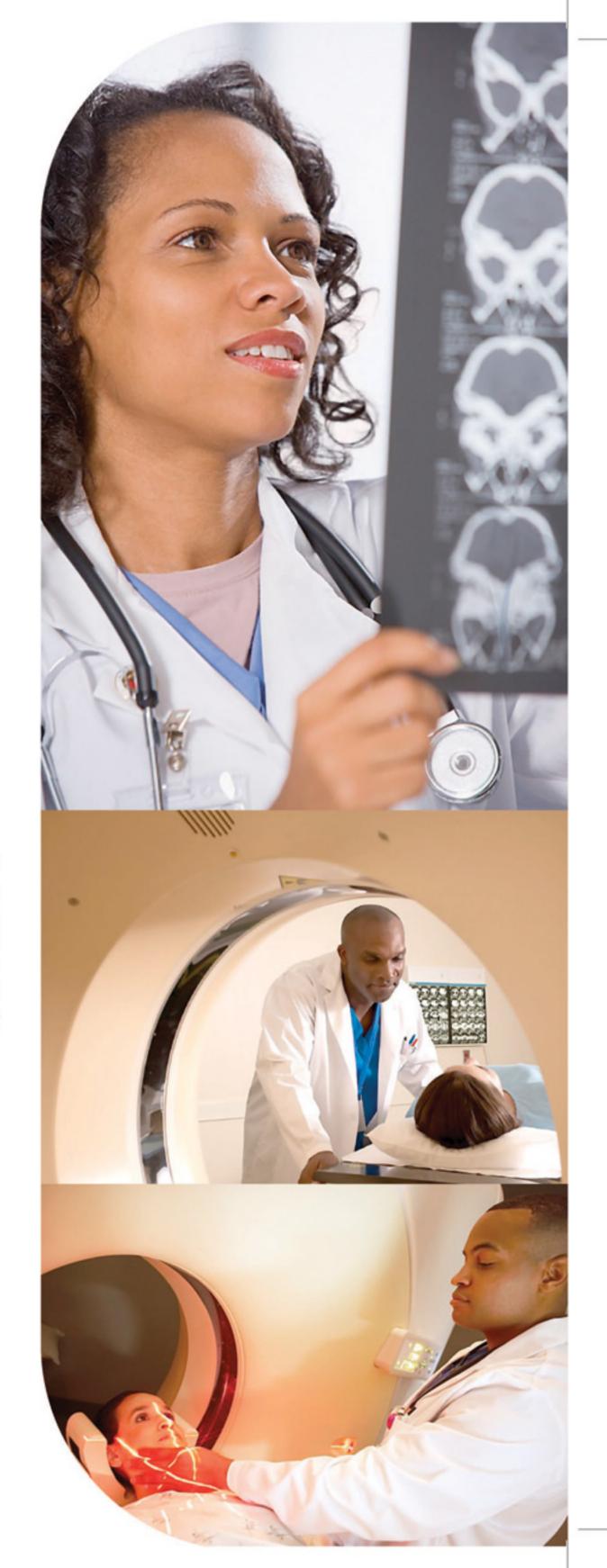
- CXC CSEC courses in Mathematics, English Language and the Sciences are recommended.
- CXC CAPE passes in Biology and Chemistry.
- Bachelor of Science (BSc.) degree in Biochemistry.

#### **PROFILE**

- Self motivated and inquisitive
- · Problem solving skills
- Observant
- Ability to multitask
- Math and computer skills
- Ability to communicate effectively (both orally and in writing)
- Management and leadership skills
- Ability to interpret and analyse research results

## BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

A Biomedical Engineer combines physical science and engineering in order to improve or restore function to patient and also to design medical equipment such as life support devices that improves the quality of life for medical patients.



#### **DUTIES**

- Conduct research on the various life support systems that affect patients including biological, psychological and behavioural research.
- Develop computer simulations and prototypes of equipment.
- Design and develop equipment such as pacemakers or equipment used to assist in surgery.
- Evaluate effectiveness of certain drugs.
- Testing and maintenance of medical equipment.
- Making modifications to equipment where necessary.
- Coordinate and monitors preventive maintenance schedules.
- Develop user training programs in the proper use and care of biomedical equipment.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in the Sciences, Mathematics and English.
- Bachelor's degree in Engineering or Biomedical Engineering.
- Proficient in the use of computers, with a working knowledge of the Microsoft office suite.
- Knowledge of computer hardware and software.
- Interpreting schematic diagrams to perform effective repair and maintenance on complex biomedical equipment.

#### **PROFILE**

- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Careful, methodical and responsible
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Respect for patients comfort when working in close proximity
- Organisational skills
- Works well with hands
- Good hand-eye coordination
- · Report writing skills

## BIOMEDICAL TECHNICIAN

A Biomedical Technician maintains and repairs specialist medical equipment, clinical accessories and surgical instruments.







#### **DUTIES**

- Maintain and repair medical equipment.
- Conduct safety checks on equipment.
- Train and advise users of safe procedures.
- Work with other staff in determining needs of equipment.
- Performing preventive maintenance on biomedical equipment.
- May be required to travel.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- University degree in Biomedical Technology or a related field, OR
- Technician's diploma in Electronic and Electrical Engineering (EEET).
- Appropriate certification in the repair of specialist equipment and systems from the relevant manufacturer.
- Proficient in the use of computers, with a working knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite.
- Interpreting schematic diagrams to perform effective repair and maintenance on basic biomedical equipment

#### **PROFILE**

- Careful, methodical and responsible
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- · Respect for patients comfort when working in close proximity
- Organisational skills
- · Works well with hands
- Good hand-eye coordination
- Operational flexibility is required to meet sudden and unpredictable needs
- Ability to lift heavy objects and work with a variety of hand and power tool
- Must be able to reach, bend, kneel, climb, push, pull and work in tight spaces
- Must be able to sit or stand for long periods of time

## DENTAL NURSING

Dental Nursing involves assisting the Dentist, aids in preparation and general patient duties related to dentistry.



## **DENTAL NURSING**

# Allied Health Careers

#### **DUTIES**

#### **DENTAL NURSE:**

- Performs extractions of deciduous teeth on children under the age of twelve (12).
- Places fillings on children under twelve (12).
- Administers local anesthesia.
- Conducts cleanings and fluoride treatment.
- Cleans and prepares equipment.
- Executes oral health education programs.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English, Psychology, Social Sciences, Information Technology and Statistics.
- Certificate in Dental Nursing

#### **PROFILE**

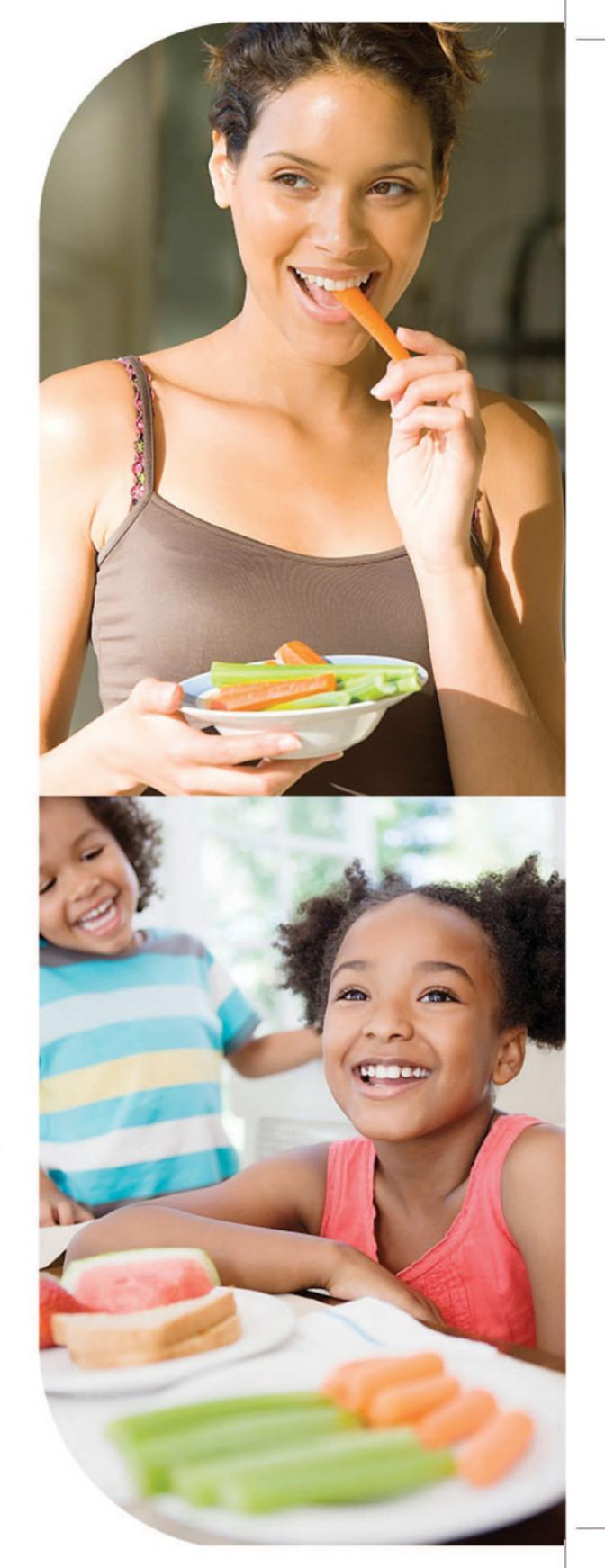
The following personal qualities are essential to becoming a successful Dental Nurse:

- Manual precision: Steady hands are important when performing minute actions. Hands must also be
  dexterous and have muscular endurance for long procedures. Attention to detail is critical.
- Communication and people skills: Excellent communication skills are required to explain procedures to the patient to allow him/her to make informed choices as well as to advise the patient clearly and to accurately interpret any questions he/she may have.
- Empathy and patience: Showing empathy allows patients to trust the dentist and therefore makes
  the procedure less stressful for both parties involved. Similarly, patience to deal with and calm anxious
  patients is beneficial.
- Cleanliness: A dentist should have good hygiene and a clean and bright treatment room, so that
  patients will feel confident that they are being treated in a germ free environment.
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills: Dentists should be able to assess the problem the patient is experiencing and determine the best possible treatment to be taken.
- Ability to work well under pressure: The ability to work quickly and efficiently without becoming
  overwhelmed is especially important in emergency situations.

## DIETETICS

Dietetics is the study and application of scientific knowledge of human nutrition, biochemistry, physiology and food, integrated with the behavioral and social sciences, current business and foodservice systems management, to attain or maintain optimal health of individuals in institutions or in the community.

Dietitians are health care professionals who assess an individual's nutritional needs and provide medical nutrition therapy to manage the treatment of hospitalized individuals and those living with any nutrition-related conditions or diseases. Dietitians are also involved in promoting optimal health of individuals and groups in non-health sectors and in the community.



- Assess nutritional needs of individuals and groups.
- Establish nutritional diagnoses.
- Facilitate development of client's goals and objectives that meet the nutritional needs of individuals and groups.
- Determine medical nutrition therapy strategies to address diagnoses and client's goals.
- Monitor, evaluate outcomes of medical nutrition therapy.
- Consult with physicians and other healthcare personnel.
- Establish and supervise implementation of foodservice systems to meet patients' medical nutrition therapy needs.
- Monitor, evaluate and maintain proper standards of food quality and safety.
- Conduct basic and applied research.
- Manage the Nutrition and Dietetics Department, and coordinate departmental services with other associated departments.
- Contribute to education and training of dietetic interns, other healthcare personnel and other individuals.
- Prepare age-specific, culturally relevant educational materials for diverse individuals and groups.
- Provide advice to food industries and other food-related bodies.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- CXC CSEC subjects include English, Mathematics, Chemistry.
- CXC CAPE science subjects OR a Diploma or Associate's degree in Nutrition or Food Science or Chemistry or Biochemistry from a recognised tertiary level institution.
- Bachelor of Science degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics coordinated or integrated with an approved dietetic internship comprising of supervised practice in (a) clinical dietetics (b) community dietetics and nutrition and (c) foodservice systems management.
   OR
- Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition and Dietetics OR Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology
  with a concentration in Human Nutrition and Dietetics followed by an approved dietetic internship
  comprising supervised practice in (a) clinical dietetics (b) community dietetics and nutrition and (c)
  foodservice systems management.
- Registration with the Nutritionists and Dietitians Board of the Council of Professions Related to Medicine, Trinidad and Tobago.

- Good communication skills
- Good management skills
- Good time management skills
- Good critical thinking skills
- Empathetic and client centered
- Flexibility
- Advocates for and demonstrates professional standards
- Maintains professional competencies
- Respect for religious and cultural preferences
- Patience
- Computer literate
- Able to work well independently and as a team member

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

An Emergency Medical Technician is someone who appraises and initiates emergency care for persons suffering from trauma or acute illness before or during transportation to health care facilities via ambulance.



- Assess patient's condition and administer treatment.
- Attend to emergency calls such as child-birth, accidents, fires, rescues and psychiatric crises.
- Operate ambulance machinery such as defibrillators.
- Work with Police and Fire Service officials in cases on accidents, fires and rescues.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

#### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN BASIC (EMT-B)**

- Five (5) CXC/O'Level passes.
- Heavy-T driver's licence with 5 years driving experience.

#### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN INTERMEDIATE (EMT-I)**

At least two (2) years experience as an EMT-B.

#### **PARAMEDIC**

- Successful completion of EMT-I programme.
- Completion of an Emergency Medical Services Paramedic Education Programme.

- Works well under pressure
- Ability to multi-task
- Focused
- Sense of urgency when necessary
- Caring and empathetic towards others

## 40 · Dictionary of Careers IN THE HEALTH SECTOR ENTOMOLOGY

## **ENTOMOLOGY**

Entomology is the scientific study of insects. In Trinidad and Tobago, entomologists function within the Insect Vector Control Division.





- Plan and implement insect surveys and pest management programmes.
- Plan and implement malaria blood smearing surveys in high risk areas.
- Investigates various types of prevention and control methods and insecticidal resistance tests for disease carrying insects such as Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes.
- Perform investigations and research on mosquitoes and other arthropods in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Perform investigations and research on disease carrying insects and pests that are not found locally but are present in the immediate environment.
- Study the residual activities of insecticides and larvicides.
- Conduct environmental impact assessment.
- Monitor insect population with the aim of informing officials of outbreaks.
- Coordinate public awareness and education programmes.

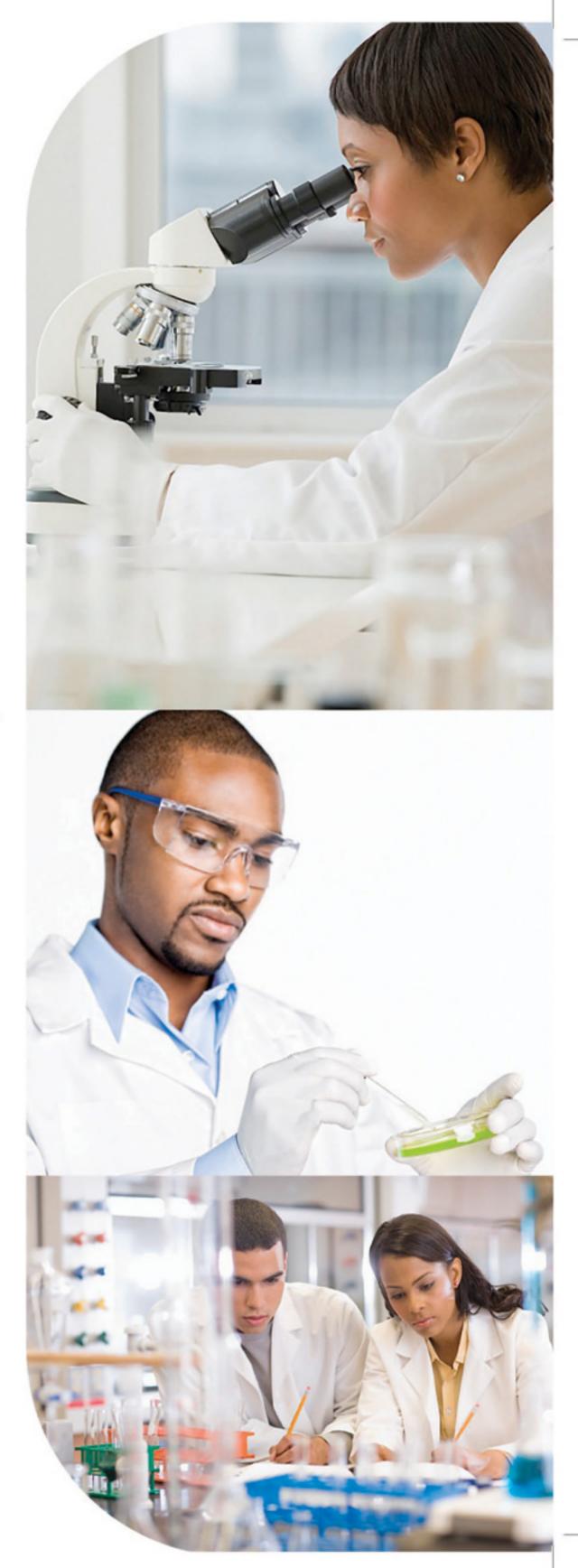
#### QUALIFICATIONS

- CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in subjects such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics are recommended.
- Bachelor and Postgraduate training in Zoology/ Biology with experience in Epidemiology/ Biostatistics/ Entomology/Toxicology.
- Certificate/Diploma in Human Resource Management or Geographic Information Systems will be an asset.
- Master of Science in Entomology with experience in Field Research Methodology and knowledge of modern insecticides and their formulation for use in control measures.

- Communication skills
- Precise, with a keen eye for detail
- Not easily nauseated
- Motivated and logical
- A natural interest in animals and insects
- Problem-solving and organisational skills

## **EPIDEMIOLOGY**

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health-related states or events (including disease), and the application of this study to the control of diseases and other health problems at the population level. Epidemiologists conduct research in order to determine the risk factors of a particular disease to a given population and ways of eliminating them.



## **EPIDEMIOLOGY**

#### DUTIES

- Surveillance of current health problems and evaluation of new ones
- Identifies risk factors and control methods
- Applies epidemiological concepts to planning and evaluating programmes and health care services
- Disseminates technical information related to health trends within the country
- Assists in training in epidemiological concepts
- Conducts research on relevant topics related to epidemiology in terms of person, place and time
- Advises on solutions to current epidemiological issues
- Predicts the likelihood of outbreaks and trends of health-related states or events (including disease)

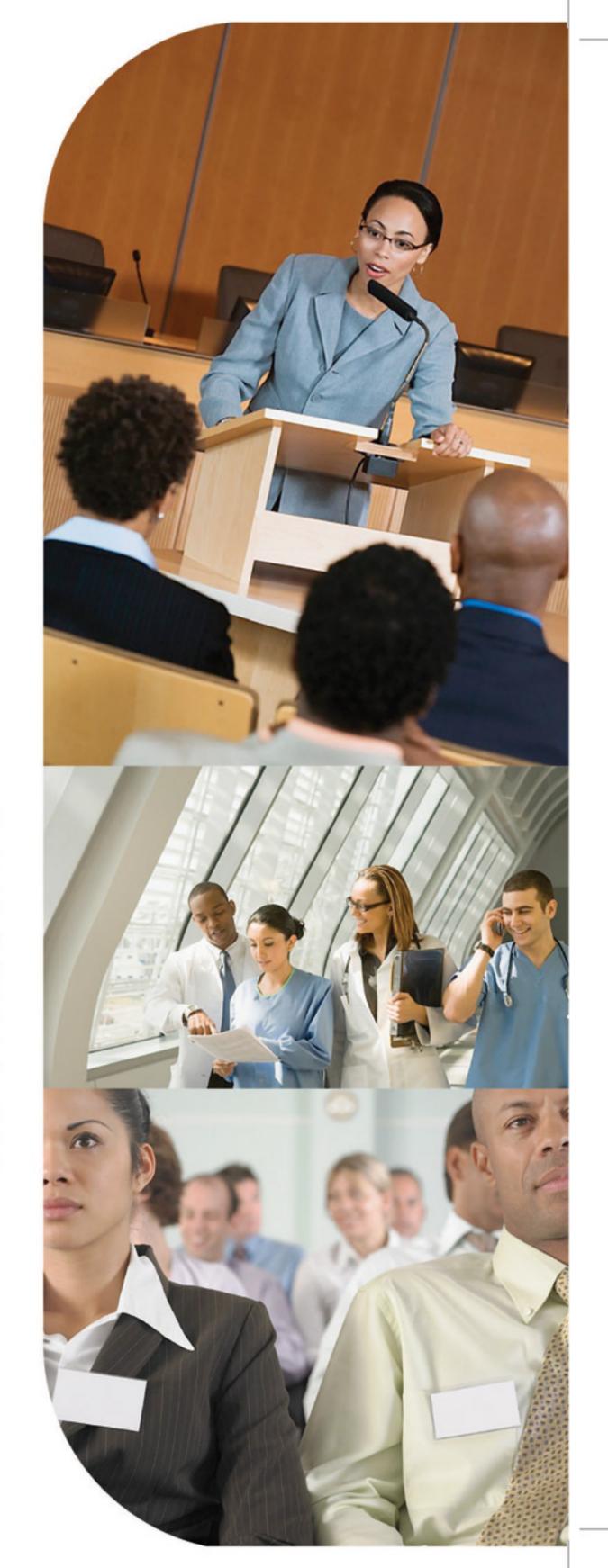
#### QUALIFICATIONS

- CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in Biology, Chemistry and Physics are recommended.
- Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS).
- Master's degree in Public Health with concentration in Epidemiology; or a Master's degree in Epidemiology.
- Knowledge of statistical methods is an asset.

- Good communication skills
- Enjoys working with numbers
- Works well with technology
- Problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Good decision-making skills
- Observant
- Dependable and adaptive

## HEALTH EDUCATION

Involves the conduct of technical work in the field of Public Health Education. Work includes giving lectures and demonstrations to groups and voluntary organisations on matters pertaining to health education and assisting generally in all other aspects. Work is performed under the supervision of a higher level Health Education Officer who reviews work for conformance to established departmental policies and accepted techniques and procedures through conferences, reports and an evaluation of results achieved.



## Careers HEALIH I

Allied Health

#### DUTIES

- Assist in developing and administering a generalised programme of health education.
- Assist in the pre-service training programme for Public Health Inspectors and Public Health Nurses by giving lectures, discussion, field studies and observation trips.
- Prepare pamphlets and charts for demonstration purposes.
- Assist in organising exhibitions and in-service training of government employees.
- Advise and consult with voluntary and international agencies.
- Deliver lectures on Health Education to groups and voluntary organisations.
- Advise and consult with interested groups on problems, needs and programmes in Public Health Education.
- Participate in studies and surveys of Public Health Education needs.
- Perform routine clerical duties.
- Perform related work as required.

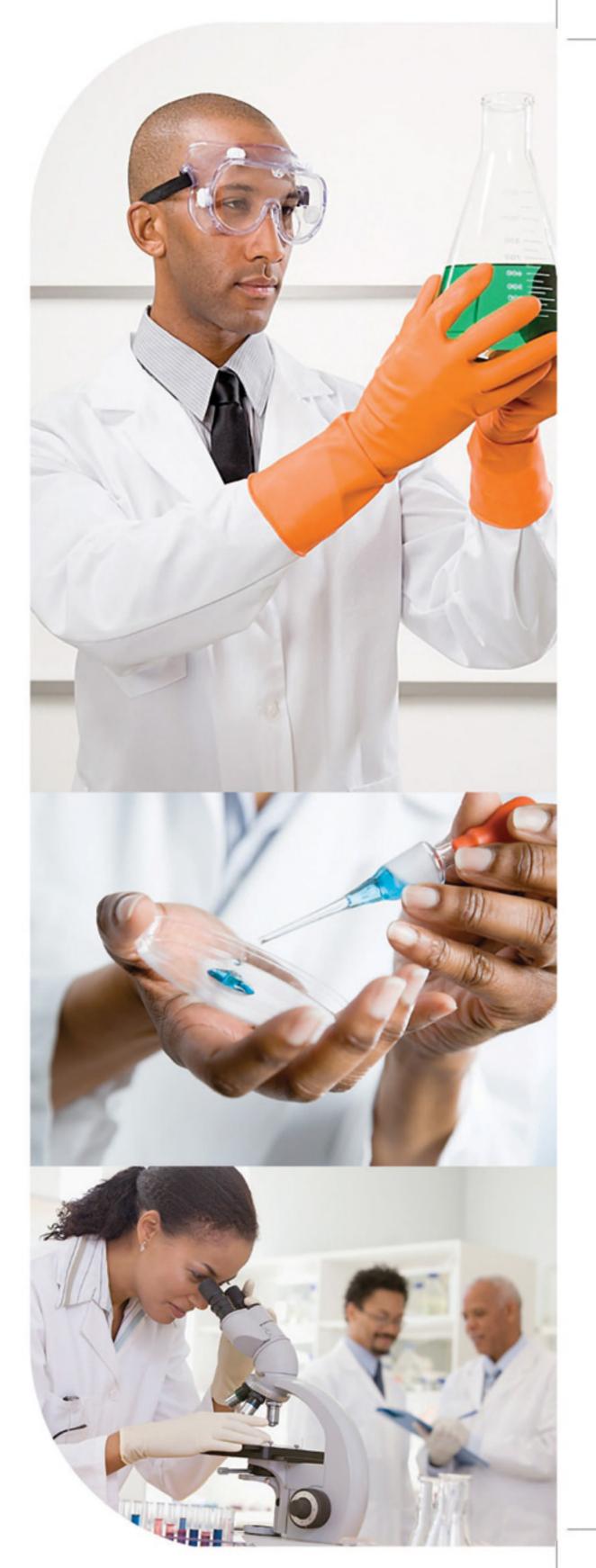
#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor of Science in Health Education.
- Experience in Public Health Education and training as evidenced by a degree in Health Education; or any equivalent combination of experience training.

- Knowledge of principles of Public Health Education
- Knowledge of the facilities, media, methods and techniques of disseminating educational information to the public
- Knowledge of the basic principles of health
- Ability to use initiative and resourcefulness in gathering data and composing articles and speeches on Public Health topics
- Ability to interpret public health subjects, community groups and individuals
- Ability to present ideas accurately, effectively and concisely, both orally and in writing
- Ability to interpret Public Health subjects, community groups and individuals
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with associates, local agencies and community groups

## MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

Medical Laboratory Technicians are responsible for the chemical, microscopic and bacteriological testing of substances such as blood, tissue, urine and other body fluids for detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases.



MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

#### **DUTIES**

- Prepare stains and make microscopic examinations of smears, blood, urine, pus, stool, sputum and other body fluids and exudates.
- Prepare, examine and analyze a variety of body fluids and tissues which aid in the diagnosis and clinical management of patients, according to written protocols in the relevant area of assignment.
- Prepare semi complex reagents, solutions and stains.
- Operate basic and computerized equipment within the laboratory.
- Handle bio-hazardous and radioactive materials and ensure safe disposal as protocol demands.
- Perform routine maintenance daily on apparatus used in the department.
- Prepare blood and blood products for use in blood banking.
- Assist in preparing and staining of bone marrow preparations and tissues for examinations by the pathologist.
- Assist in performing quality control and standardized procedures.

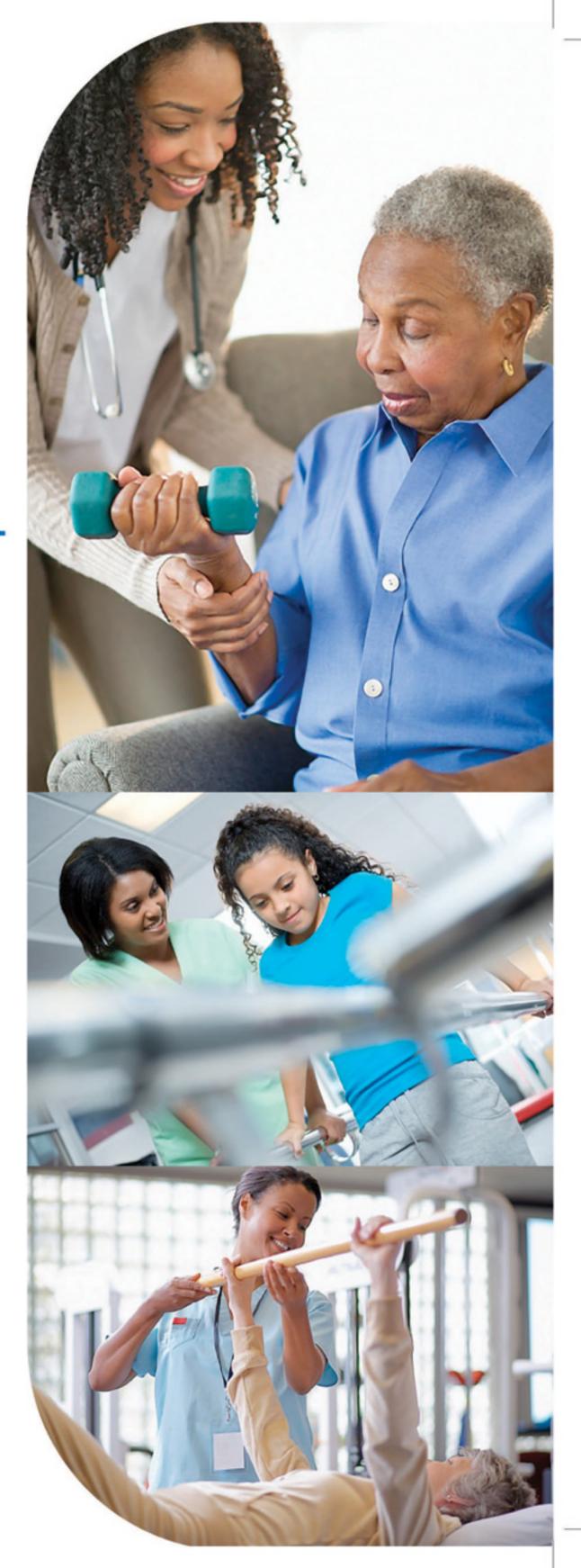
#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Five (5) CXC passes inclusive of English, Math, Biology and Chemistry.
- Associate of Science (ASc.) or Bachelor of Science (BSc.) Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology.
- Registration with the Medical Laboratory Technicians Board of Trinidad and Tobago.

- Comfortable with technology
- Ability to co-ordinate and undertake research activities
- Must be detail-oriented
- Ability to follow procedures and instructions
- Problem-solving skills
- Knowledge of relevant computer applications
- · Record-keeping skills
- Must be able to work as part of a team
- Excellent communications skills
- Must be able to follow safety regulations

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational therapists provide skilled treatment that helps individuals of all ages achieve and maintain the lifestyle they aspire to and engage in occupations of their choice. A wide variety of people can benefit from occupational therapy including those with work-related injuries including repetitive stress and acute injuries, limitations following stroke or heart attack, chronic conditions such as arthritis, multiple sclerosis, birth injuries, learning problems or developmental delays, mental health problems such as schizophrenia or dementia, substance misuse or eating disorders, burns, spinal cord injuries or amputations and other physical or mental trauma.



#### SERVICES INCLUDE

- Individualized treatment programmes to improve one's ability to perform daily activities.
- Comprehensive home and job site evaluations with adaptation recommendations.
- Performance skills assessments and treatment.
- Adaptive equipment recommendations and usage training.
- Training and guidance to family members, teachers and caregivers.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Useful CXC CSEC courses are English, Mathematics, Biology and other sciences.
- CXC CAPE subjects in sciences will be an asset.
- Master's degree in Occupational Therapy (or Bachelor's from the UK) from a programme approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapy.
- 1000 hours of supervised clinical internships.
- Board certification examinations.

- Observant
- Good communication skills
- Ability to motivate patients
- Patient and understanding
- Problem-solving skills
- Time management skills
- Understanding and respect for cultural differences
- Creative thinker
- Strong leadership and team player skills

## OPTOMETRY

Optometry is about the examination of the eyes and visual systems as well as, diagnosing eye diseases.



#### SPECIALTIES AND DUTIES

#### OPTOMETRIST:

- Examines and tests patients' eye and vision.
- Diagnoses disorders and diseases of the eye.
- Prescribes and fits glasses and contact lens.
- Gives advice on the care of the eyes and eyewear.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- CXC CSEC passes in courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English, Psychology, Social Sciences, Statistics and Computer Literacy.
- CXC CAPE passes in courses such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Bachelor of Optometry degree (BOptom).
- Doctor of Optometry degree (OD).

- Manual precision: Steady, dexterous hands are important when performing minute actions. Must also have muscular endurance for long procedures.
- Communication and people skills: Excellent communication skills are required to explain procedures to the patient, clearly advise him/her and accurately interpret any questions he/she may have.
- Empathy and patience: Showing empathy allows patients to become more comfortable when they feel they can trust the optometrist to do a satisfactory job. Similarly, patience to deal with and calm anxious patients is beneficial.
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills: Should be able to assess the problem the patient is experiencing and determine the best possible course of action to be taken.
- Ability to work well under pressure: The ability to work quickly and efficiently without becoming overwhelmed.

### PHARMACY

Pharmacy is about the safe and effective use of pharmaceuticals; it provides a link between the health sciences and the chemical sciences and is the quality control between the patient and the physician.







- Prepare, compound and dispense medication.
- Monitor drug therapies for contraindications, interactions allergies and appropriateness.
- Monitor adverse drug reactions and report to the relevant authority.
- Monitor the quality of drugs being used by the clients.
- Provide drug information to the physicians and to the public.
- Give advice to clients on the appropriate use of medication, devices and services in order to achieve optimal therapeutic outcomes.
- Give advice on lifestyle choices in order to improve clients' quality of life.
- Counsel clients on over the counter medication to ensure no possible side effects when used with othe prescribed medications.
- Aid clients in the management of chronic non communicable diseases.
- Conduct tests such as blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol and advise on follow up actions.

#### **BRANCHES**

- Clinical Pharmacy
- Paediatric Pharmacy
- Geriatric Pharmacy
- Wholesale Pharmacy
- Hospital Pharmacy
- Community Pharmacy
- Forensic Pharmacy

- Oncology Pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
- Law
- Academia
- Distribution Pharmacy
- National Security Pharmacy
- Retail Pharmacy

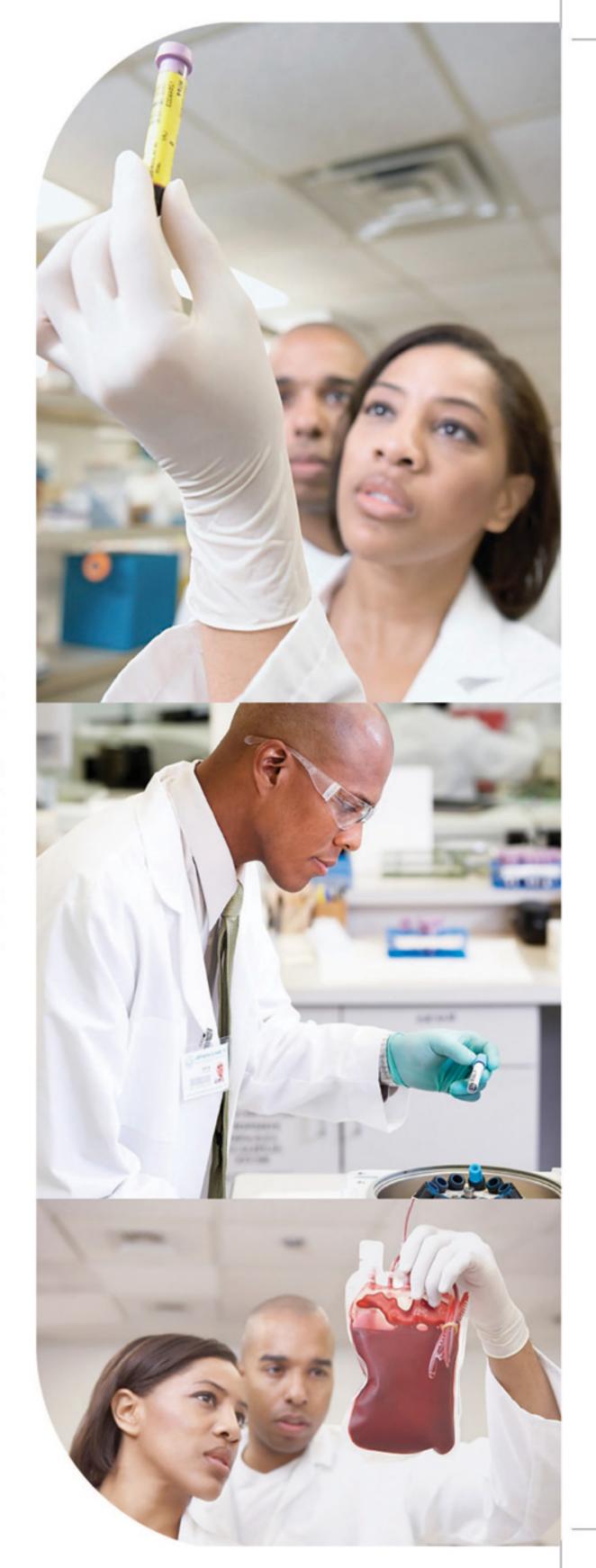
#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy
- Registration with the Pharmacy Board of Trinidad and Tobago

- Communication and listening skill
- Basic computing skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Organisational and record-keeping skills
- Reliable and dedicated
- Ability to work under pressure
- Respectful of clients need for confidentiality

### PHLEBOTOMY

Phlebotomy involves the knowledge, collection and testing of blood for laboratory usage but it does not extend to the purpose of therapeutic transfusion. Blood Banking Phlebotomy is a more specialized practice connected to the area of Transfusion Medicine and certified by a Blood Banking Hematologist. Persons conducting Blood Banking Phlebotomy have wider duties, functions and responsibilities.



- Draw blood using various techniques.
- Check red blood cell count and iron levels of patients.
- Explain procedure and take blood from donors.
- Explain all side effects and precautions to donors.
- Maintain machinery and stock of supplies.
- Record personal details of donors such as contact, weight, age and blood type.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

#### **PHLEBOTOMIST**

- CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.
- Relevant prior experience in the medical field.

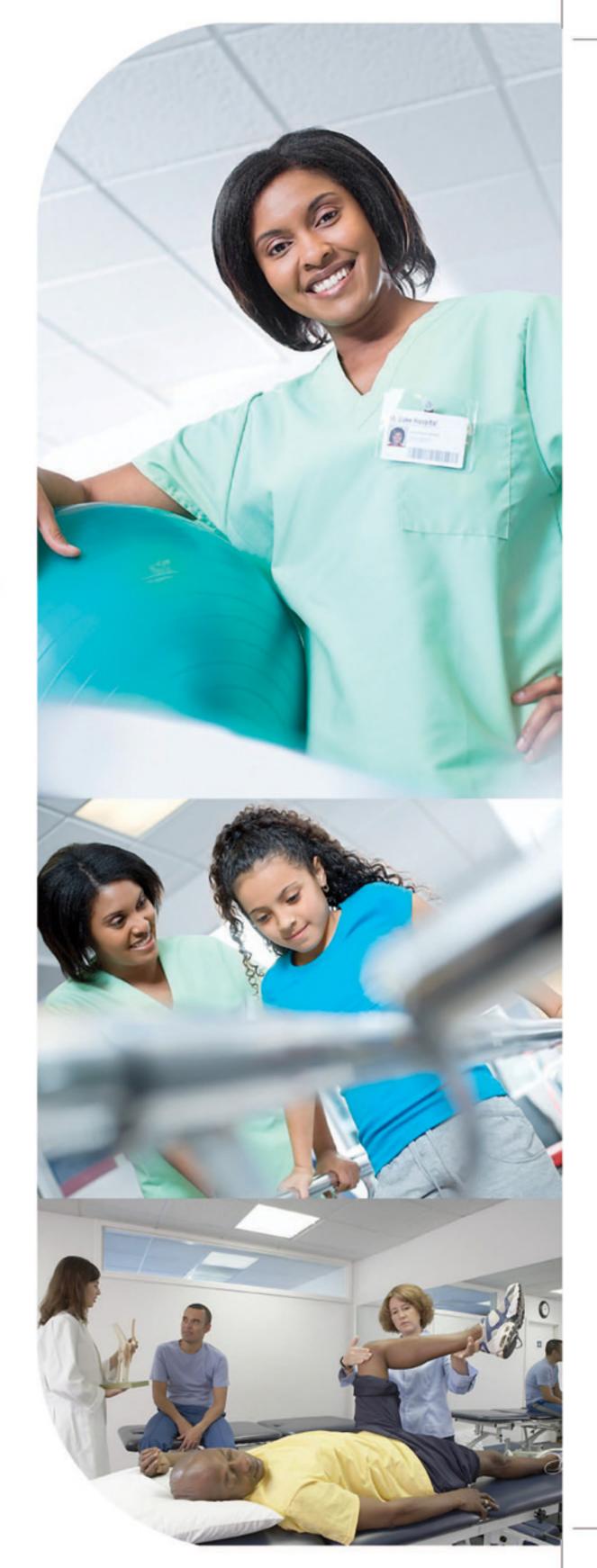
#### **BLOOD BANKING PHLEBOTOMIST**

- University degree in a health related discipline/diploma or certification in Medical Laboratory Technology.
- At least three (3) years post graduate training/Phlebotomy Certification.
- Suggested Secondary school subjects; Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics.

- Responsible
- Patient and gentle
- Accurate, detail-oriented
- Ability to follow procedures and instructions
- Good communication and people skills
- Good hygiene
- Organizational skills

## PHYSIOTHERAPY

Physiotherapy / physical therapy involves the physical care and rehabilitation of persons with diseases or injuries that limit their ability to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. It is a health care profession concerned with identifying and maximizing the quality of life and movement potential of persons.



areers

#### **DUTIES**

- Assess and diagnose patient's injuries e.g. persons with a stroke or accident injury.
- Examine a person and evaluate information gathered in order to determine the appropriate treatment methods.
- Establish a plan of care which provides treatment that may involve electrical or manual therapy and exercises to improve mobility and function.
- Record improvement.
- Advise on ways to promote fitness and wellness and avoid injury e.g. during sports and exercises.

#### **BRANCHES**

Physiotherapists/Physical Therapists work in many settings such as hospital wards, out-patient departments, in private clinics or even in people's homes. After qualifying, persons may do post-graduate studies in different areas of the profession.

- General Physiotherapy treating a wide range of conditions that affect mobility.
- Sports Physiotherapy treating athletic injuries, teaching injury prevention and rehabilitation.
- Geriatric Physiotherapy treating elderly persons with injuries and advising on safety in the home.
- Pediatric Physiotherapy treating disorders common to children.
- Women's Health treating issues specifically related to women such as childbirth and its complications, osteoporosis, or gynecological disorders.
- Pain Management –improving the quality of life for those living with pain.
- Orthopedics- treating injuries of the muscular-skeletal system including fractures, sprains, back pain and post operative care of fractures, joint replacements etc.
- Cardiopulmonary Physiotherapy treating conditions related to the heart and lungs e.g. asthma, chronic chest infections, coronary bypass surgery.
- Neurological Physiotherapy treating conditions affecting the nervous system, e.g. brain injuries, Parkinson's disease and spinal cord injuries.

#### **EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Entry level programmes are university level studies of a minimum of four years including an Internship.
- Enrollment requirements include CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in science subjects Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics.
- Persons must also do voluntary hours in a Physiotherapy facility prior to applying to a school.
- Persons may apply to UWI, Mona Campus or Universities in US, Canada or UK.

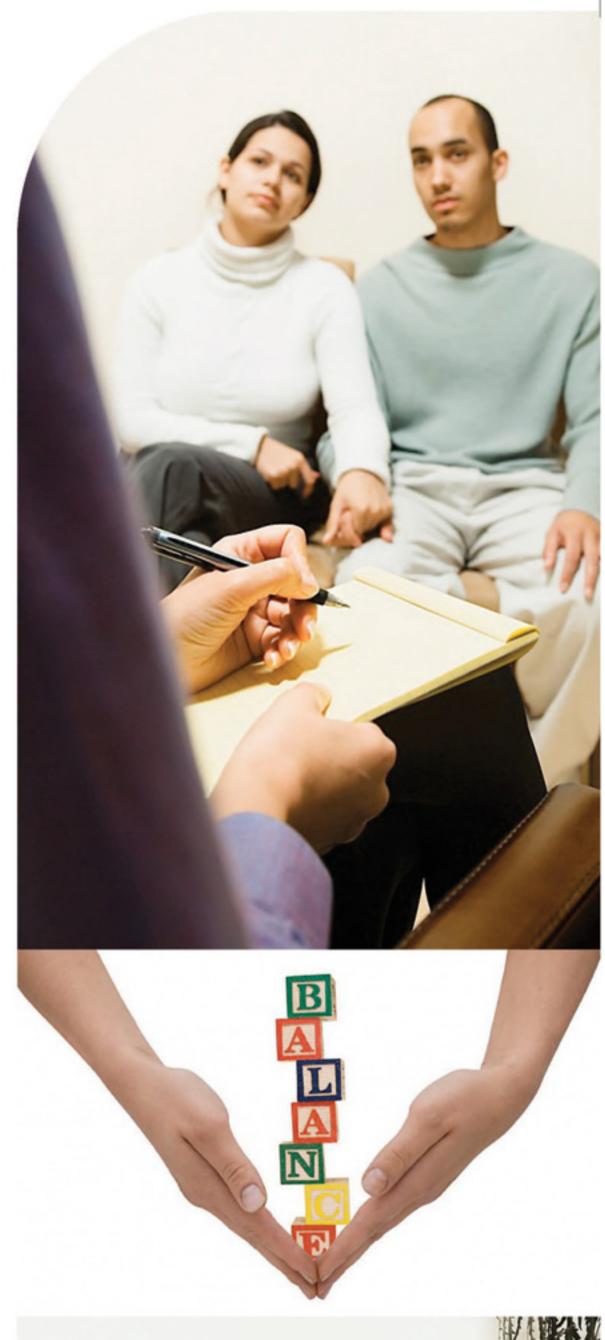
#### QUALIFICATIONS

- · Bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy.
- PhD in Physical Therapy from recognized schools in US, Canada or UK.

- Supportive and positive attitude
- Ability to gain client's trust
- Respect for cultural preferences
- Persistent
- Communication and people skills

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour, brain function and the mind; this refers to both conscious and unconscious states of mind. Psychologists use careful observation, experimentation and analysis to expand their knowledge in the field.





#### **SPECIALTIES**

#### CLINICAL

 Uses various methods, including psychotherapy, to treat mental, emotional and behavioural disorders such as schizophrenia and clinical depression.

#### CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

Assesses and treats persons with brain injury to assist them in regaining lost functions.

#### **COGNITIVE AND PERCEPTUAL**

 Studies human perception, thinking and memory, as well as, reasoning, judgment and decision making.

#### COUNSELLING

 Uses therapy to help people cope with the problems associated with normal human development, as well as recognize their strengths.

#### DEVELOPMENTAL

Studies the psychological development of humans from birth to death.

#### **EDUCATIONAL**

 Studies how children learn and develop with special focus on subgroups, such as persons with learning disabilities and on appropriate teaching techniques.

#### **ENGINEERING**

Conducts research on ways to improve how people operate with machines.

#### **EVOLUTIONARY**

Studies psychological traits and evolutionary principles such as mutation and behaviour.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

 Conducts research using experimental methods on various psychological areas such as cognitive processes, behaviour and neurological processes; experimental psychologists work with both humans and animals.

#### **FORENSIC**

 Involves applying psychological principles to legal issues with the aim of testifying in court and reformulating psychological findings into legal terminology for court presentation.

#### **HEALTH**

 Specialises in understanding how biological, psychological and social factors affect health and illness prevention.

#### **INDUSTRIAL / ORGANISATIONAL**

 Applies psychological principles and research to organisations and workplaces with the aim of improving productivity, satisfaction and workplace behaviour.

#### NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

 Studies the relationship between brain processes and behaviour. This field also works with both human and animal subjects.

#### QUANTITATIVE AND MEASUREMENT

 Uses mathematical and statistical methods and techniques for designing experiments and analyzing data.

#### REHABILITATION

 Works on the rehabilitation of stroke and accident victims, persons with developmental disabilities and mental retardation.

#### **SCHOOL**

Assesses and works with children in public and private schools to help with school difficulties.

#### SOCIAL

 Studies the thoughts, feelings and behaviours of persons and the way they are shaped by interactions with others.

#### **SPORT**

 Studies the psychological factors that affect an athlete's focus on competition goals, motivation and anxiety and fear management.

#### BASIC DUTIES

- Interview and observe clients.
- Conduct tests to assess clients' abilities.
- Conduct assessments of clients' mental and emotional state.
- Develop treatment plans where applicable.
- Write reports and track progress.
- Conduct research in various areas.
- Work with clients therapeutically to help them to solve problems.

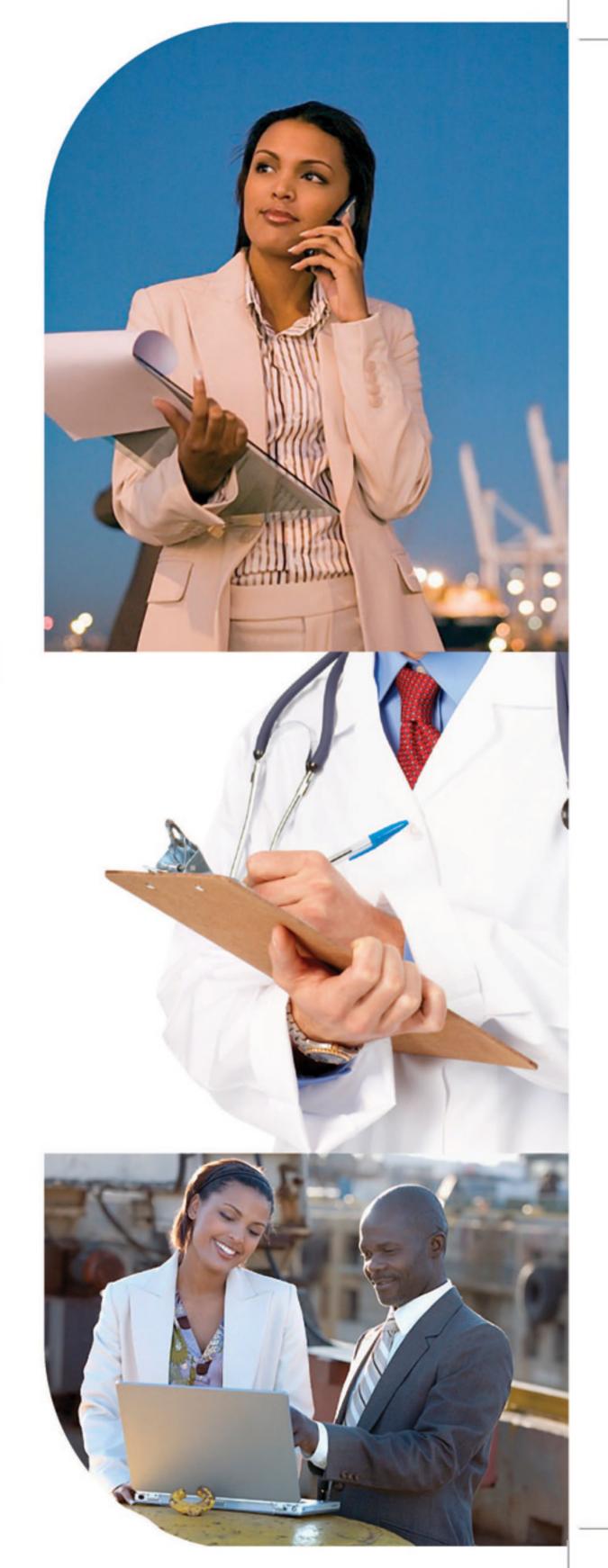
#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.
- Postgraduate qualifications in a relevant specialty area (Master's or PhD).

- Good communication and people skills
- Research skills
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Ability to interpret results
- Understanding and respect for various cultures
- Time management skills
- Report writing skills
- Open-minded
- Ability to empathise with clients
- Ability to handle stress
- Ability to work well under pressure
- Ability to establish and maintain clear boundaries between self and clients even in highly emotional situations
- Ability to tolerate and contain clients' strong emotions
- Good analytical skills

## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION

The mission of Public Health Inspection is to identify and assess risks to human health in the environment and use reasonable, practical methods, to control or eliminate these risks in a manner that would have minimal negative impacts on the environment.



- Inspection of premises to identify nuisances and environmental hazards.
- Surveillance of solid waste management systems and disease vectors (rodents, mosquitoes, flies, etc).
- Inspection of factories, workshops, farms, schools, health facilities, public buildings, residential homes, day care centres, etc.
- Inspection and registration of food handlers and premises.
- Inspection and registration of personal care facilities such as barber shops, tattoo parlours, massage parlors, etc.
- Inspection of potable water sources and public swimming areas such as pools, rivers and beaches.
- Monitoring of waste management and disposal systems.
- Processing of building applications and layout plans.
- Enforcement of public health laws, legislation and by-laws.
- Provision of lectures and presentations to communities and schools.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

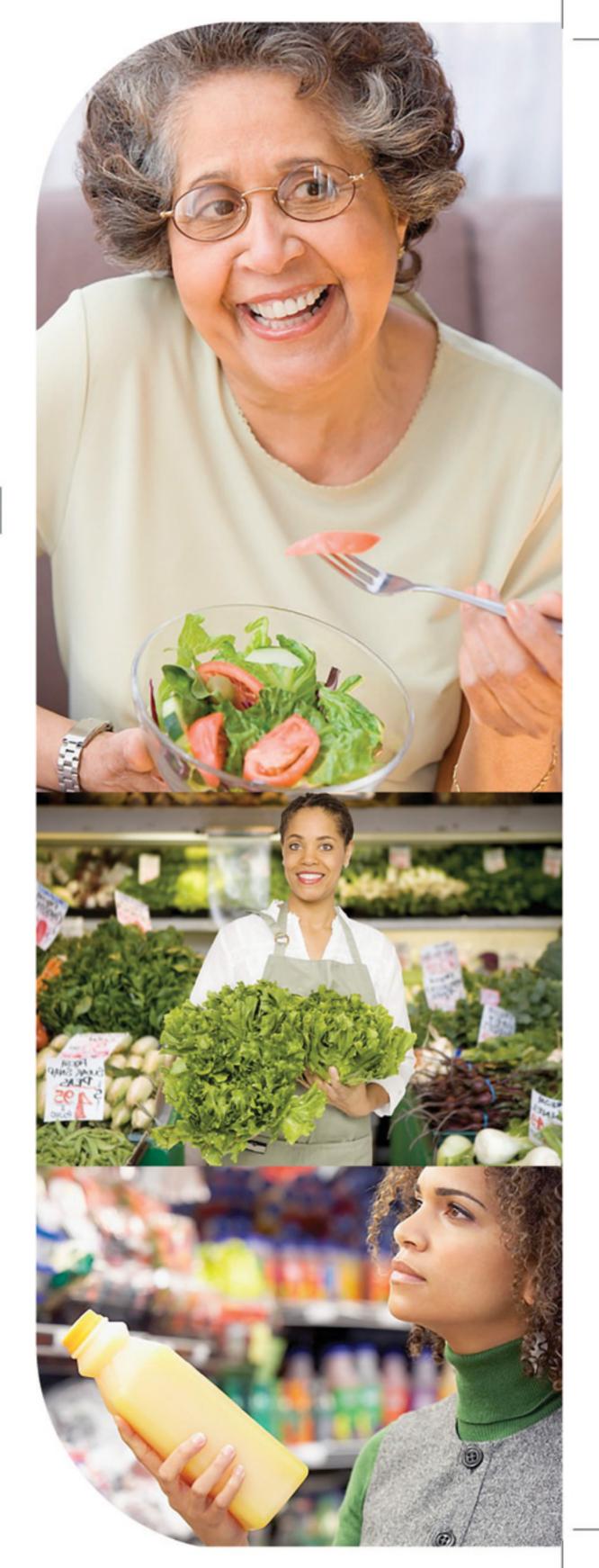
- Recommended CXC CSEC / GCE O'level courses include Mathematics, English Language and a Science subject.
- Associate's degree in Environmental Health.

- Good communication skills
- Ability to work independently and with minimal supervision
- Knowledgeable in the field of Public Health
- Enquiring with an eye for detail
- Confidential
- Fair, impartial and tolerant of others' beliefs and cultures
- Diligent
- Honest
- Well disciplined
- Problem-solving skills
- Must be able to integrate religious beliefs with the requirements of Public Health

## PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION

Public health nutrition is the application of nutrition principles and implementation of initiatives contribute to improving environmental determinants of dietary intake for the prevention of nutrition-related diseases, and promotion of optimal nutritional of health the population. Multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral collaboration is critical for public health nutrition practice.

A public health nutritionist is responsible for integrating and applying scientific knowledge of human nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, the behavioural and social sciences, and food systems to plan and lead population-based nutrition promotion strategies and interventions to improve the health and well-being of targeted groups in communities and the general population.



- Assess the nutritional needs of targeted communities and the population.
- Determine the cause(s) of health problems as they relate to nutrition.
- Establish and implement nutrition surveillance systems.
- Develop policies to address nutrition-related problems and thus promote nutritional health and prever nutrition-related chronic diseases and conditions.
- Plan and conduct culturally relevant nutrition education programmes, complemented by appropriate educational materials.
- Collaborate with other healthcare providers, non-health sectors and agencies for greater effectiveness
  of initiatives.
- Contribute to education and training of dietetic interns, other healthcare personnel and other individuals.
- Provide advice to food industries and other food-related bodies.
- Develop and improve food labeling and safety standards, and monitor compliance.
- Ensure quality assurance standards are met.
- Conduct research on the nutritionally relevant areas of focus and communicate findings.
- Maintain professional competencies.

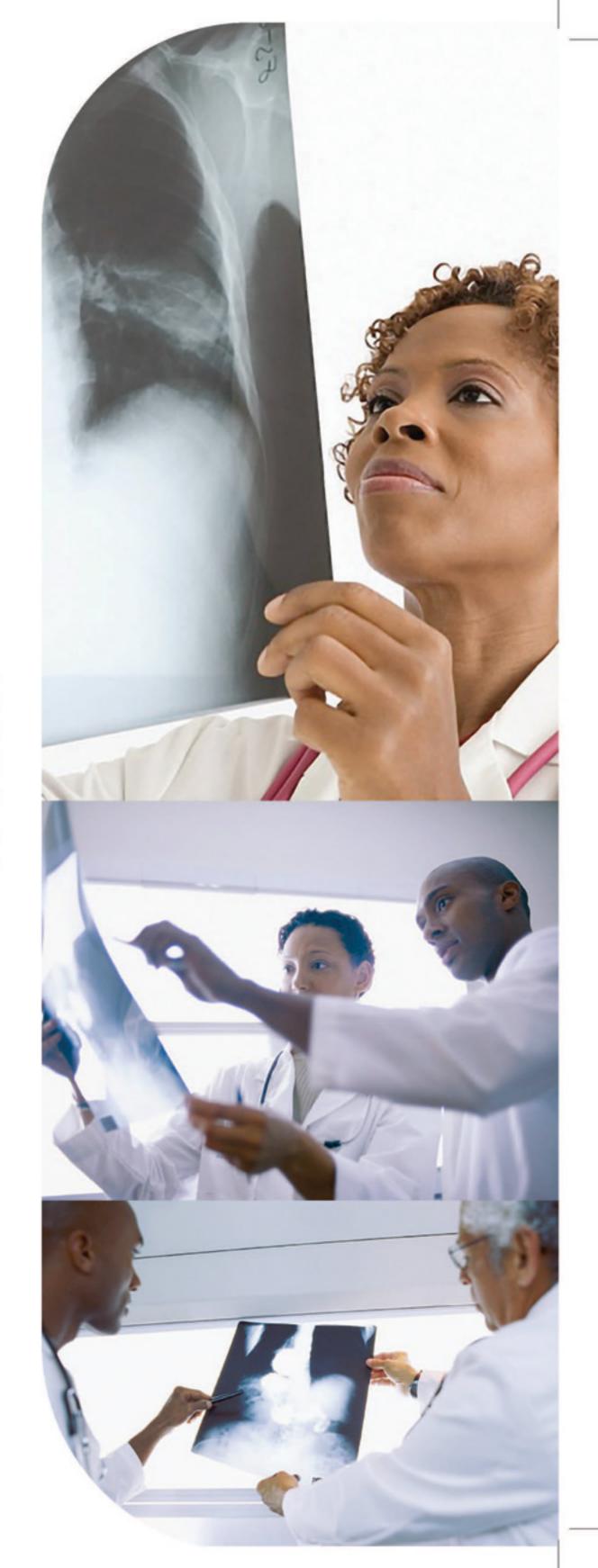
#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Required CXC (CSEC) subjects include English, Mathematics and Chemistry.
- Two CXC (CAPE) science subjects OR a Diploma or Associate's degree in Nutrition or Food Science or Chemistry or Biochemistry from a recognised tertiary level institution.
- Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics is an asset and is highly desirable.
- Master of Science (MSc) Degree in Nutrition OR Community Nutrition including courses in Public Healt Nutrition OR Public Health Nutrition. Either option should be integrated with practicum.
- Registration with the Nutritionists and Dietitians Board of the Council of Professions Related to Medicine, Trinidad and Tobago.

- · Good communication (oral, writing, listening) skills
- Good management and networking skills
- Good time management skills
- Good critical thinking skills
- Flexibility
- Advocate for and demonstrate professional standards
- Maintain professional competencies
- Respect for religious and cultural preferences
- Computer literate
- Ability to work well independently and as a team member

### RADIOGRAPHY

Radiography is the use of radiation, sound waves and magnetic resonance to generate images of internal anatomy in order to diagnose various medical conditions. Radiography can be described as one of two types, Diagnostic or Therapeutic (Radiation Therapy).



#### DIAGNOSTIC

 A Diagnostic Radiographer operates x-ray equipment that produces ionizing radiation to create static images of the body and is also responsible for producing dynamic fluoroscopic images using contrast media.

#### **RADIATION THERAPY**

 A Therapeutic Radiographer or Radiation Therapist plans and applies targeted doses of high energy radiation to treat malignant conditions.

#### **DUTIES**

#### DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHER

- Performs routine x-ray examinations of all body structures..
- Maintains radiation safety standards of exposure.
- Assists Radiologists during special procedures.
- Explains procedures, comforts patients, provides emotional support and contributes to patient education.
- Responsible for general care and safety of patient while in the department.
- Maintains proper care and use of equipment, reporting faults as they occur.
- Manage patient flow and work schedules.
- Participates in quality control / quality assurance exercises.
- Performs other related duties as may be required.

#### RADIATION THERAPY

- Determines radiation doses to be administered during therapy.
- Administers radiation treatments.
- Explains procedures, comforts patients, provides emotional support and contributes to patient education.
- Positions patients and equipment correctly, and constructs and fits accessory devices.
- Ensures proper radiation handling and protection techniques are followed.
- Monitors patients during procedures.
- Performs treatment simulations.
- Participates in quality control / quality assurance exercises.
- Performs other related duties as may be required.

#### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Apart from Radiography, the field of Radiological Technology offers several other areas of study or post-graduate specialization. These include:

#### Brachytherapy

 The implantation of a radioactive source to administer a targeted single dose of radiation therapy to a specific internal structure.

#### Cardiovascular / Interventional Radiography

 Use of sophisticated imaging techniques to guide catheters, filters, stents or other tools through the body to treat various conditions without surgery.

#### Computed Tomography (CT)

Use of a rotating x-ray unit to obtain "slices" of anatomy at different levels throughout the body. A
computer then processes the acquired information to create a diagnostic image.

# Careers RADIOGRAPHY

Allied Health

Dosimetry

 Is the technique of determining how much radiation will be delivered to a tumor site during radiation therapy. Under the supervision of a medical physicist, dosimetrists calculate and generate radiation dose distributions in accordance with the treatment plan developed by the radiation oncologist.

#### Echocardiography or cardiac sonography

Uses ultrasound technology to create diagnostic images of the heart.

#### Mammography

Use of special x-ray equipment to obtain diagnostic images of the breasts.

#### Magnetic Resonance Technology

 Use of a powerful magnetic field and radio frequency pulses to produce detailed images of internal body structures.

#### **Nuclear Medicine Technology**

 Use of radioactive drugs called tracers that concentrate in specific organs when introduced into the patient's bloodstream. A gamma camera is used to detect radiation emitted by these tracers.

#### Sonography / Ultrasound

 Use of high frequency sound waves to produce dynamic visual images of organs, tissues or blood flow inside the body.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in sciences subjects.
- Bachelor of Science degree in Radiography / Radiation Therapy.
- Registration with the Council of the Professions related to Medicine / Radiographers Board of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Formal post-graduate certification for specialty areas.

- Conduct all technical procedures with due regard to current radiation safety regulations
- Function well under stressful circumstances
- Make rapid and sound decisions
- Possess excellent communication skills
- Possess solid critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Foster healthy relationships within the health-care setting
- Conduct administrative tasks as required
- Provide service with dignity and respect to all people regardless of race, religion, sex, age, illness or mental or physical disability
- Maintain patient confidentiality

## RESPIRATORY THERAPY

Respiratory Therapy assesses and treats disorders related to the lungs such as asthma and bronchitis. Respiratory therapists perform tests and physical examinations to determine the cause of these disorders and usually work in intensive-care units and surgery rooms.



### **DUTIES**

- Provide emergency care such as artificial respiration and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Conduct limited physical examinations and tests such as level of oxygen in blood and lung capacity.
- Conduct chest physiotherapy.
- Monitor patient's physical responses to therapy.
- Update patient's charts.
- Set up and operate machines such as ventilators.
- Ensure all respiratory equipment is fully functional.

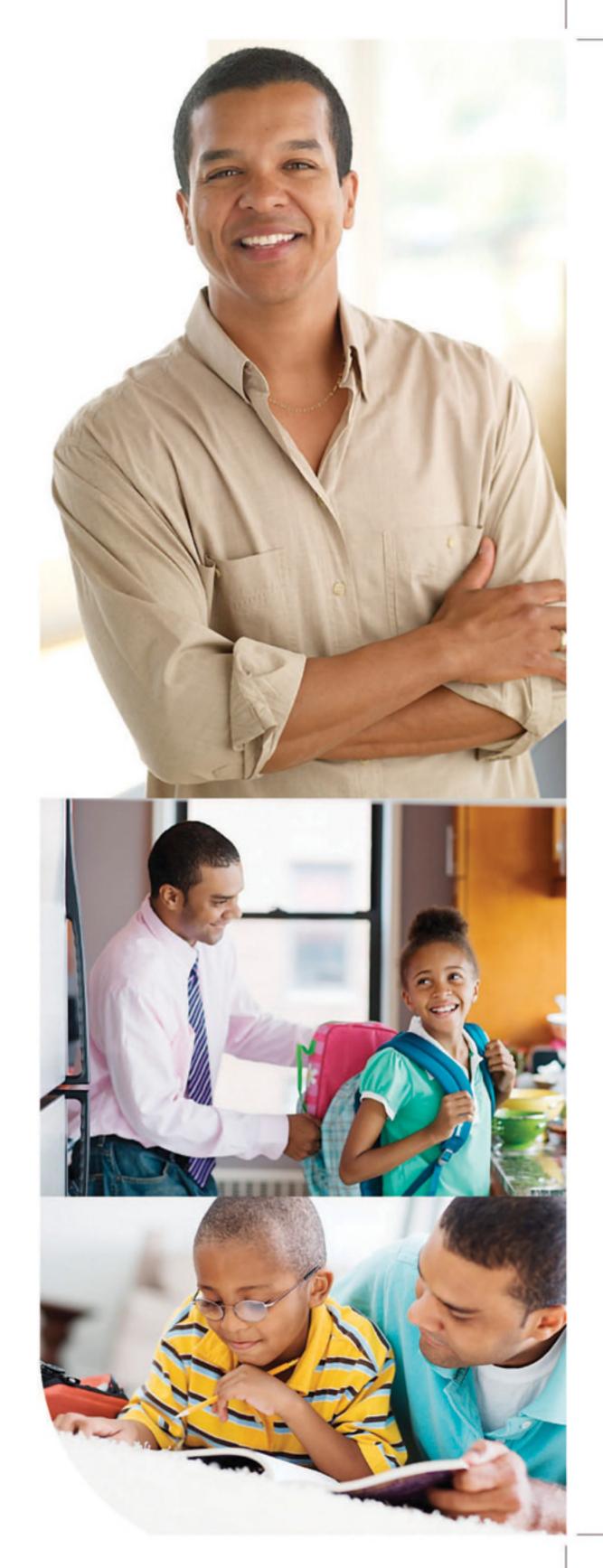
### QUALIFICATIONS

- CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in Biology, Chemistry and Physics are recommended.
- An Associate's degree in Respiratory Therapy or a related field.
- Bachelor and/or Master's degree.

- Attention to detail
- · Works well as a part of a team
- Ability to follow instructions
- Works well with technology
- Communication skills
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Able to accurately document information

# SOCIAL WORK

Social work services are an integral part of health care management and service delivery. Social work provides services (advice, support and advocacy) to persons and groups with the aim of enhancing the interpersonal competence and social functioning of the persons involved. Social work in health care is delivered by two groups of professionals —Psychiatric Social Workers and Medical Social Workers.



## BRANCHES MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER

- Helps individuals to cope with social issues such as those arising out of the impact of illness, disability or death and how they relate to emotional and social functioning.
- Medical Social Workers study, evaluate and interpret the socio-economic, psychological, biological
  and environmental backgrounds of clients for use in the preparation of plans for their adjustment and
  rehabilitation, the facilitation of response to treatment and easing of financial burdens caused by illness.
  Medical Social Workers assist individuals, couples and families with coping with the psycho-social,
  economic, cultural and medical issues resulting from illness.
- Medical Social Workers can be found in hospitals, out-patient clinics, community health centers and workplaces.

### **PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER**

- Provides counseling and helps individuals and families cope with mental health issues while recommending the appropriate intervention and services.
- Psychiatric Social Workers conduct psycho-social assessments and carry out interventions to enhance
  the developmental, problem-solving and coping capacities of persons requiring psychiatric support
  at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of the health care system. Psychiatric Social Workers
  help clients to understand problems that cause emotional distress and develop, implement methods
  to facilitate resolution of crises and other types of problems and as appropriate, connect clients to
  community resources that may offer practical assistance and support.
- Psychiatric Social Workers can be found in private practice, business settings, public and private agencies, hospitals, out-patient clinics, community mental health and wellness centres, substance abuse prevention and treatment centres, schools and work places.

### **DUTIES**

- Work towards increasing the well-being of children, adolescents, families and communities.
- Discuss the problems of clients.
- Give advice to clients on personal decisions and rights.
- Provide legal protection for individuals being mistreated.
- Write reports on cases encountered.
- Refer clients to various resources that could assist their situation.
- Contribute to the development and improvement of social policy.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work, supported by a supervised and assessed practicum amounting to three hundred and thirty six (336) hours in a Medical/Psychiatric Social Work setting.
- Registration with the Medical/Psychiatric Social Workers Board of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Prerequisites include five (5) CXC passes including English and two (2) CAPE/A'level passes.

- Understanding and respect for cultural differences
- Understanding of social issues and problems
- Excellent communication and people skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Empathy
- Planning, organising and negotiation skills
- Counseling skills
- Evaluation skills
- Able to work well under stress
- Strong ethical behavior

### SPEECH THERAPY

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP), known as Speech-Language also Therapists Speech-Language or Clinicians are highly skilled professionals who are specialized in the ability to optimize an individual's ability to communicate as well as to eat and swallow effectively. A wide range of individuals benefit from the provision of services from an SLP, including but not those who limited to possess developmental feeding, swallowing, language articulation or issues, school-aged children with language disorders, adults who have suffered a stroke or who have been in an accident as well as a member of the corporate community who is prepared to improve his/her communication skills.



### **DUTIES**

- Assess adults and children with communication disorders, differences or swallowing difficulties.
- Prepare written and detailed reports confirming diagnoses of communication or swallowing disorders as well as goals of treatment.
- Prepare and plan details of treatment.
- Provide treatment to a diverse group of adults and children with a range of diagnoses in either individual or group sessions.
- Take data on progression or regression identified.
- Provide counseling to individuals who require therapy as well as their families.
- Consult with members of an educational and/or medical team, as well as other therapists.
- Attend and/or conduct team meetings with an educational and/or medical team.
- · Promote public awareness of the profession and the body of work that SLPs are specialized in.
- Promote communication wellness programmes in private family homes, schools and hospitals as well as corporations and places of employment.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- CXC CSEC passes in English, Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry.
- CXC CAPE passes in the Sciences as well as Psychology, Linguistics or Sociology will be an asset.
- To become a qualified Speech-Language Pathologist in Trinidad and Tobago, one must possess:
  - From the UK, a Bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology.
  - From the USA and Canada, a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology.
     Note: The Bachelor's degree is gained first.
- Proof of at least 350 clinical hours in the field under a registered therapist.
- Review of academic coursework, clinical hours and experience by the Board responsible for certifying Speech-Language Pathologists in Trinidad and Tobago.

### **PROFILE**

The ideal speech-language pathologist will possess:

- Great communication skills, especially with a linguistically, culturally and economically diverse population
- Training in counseling of parents, clients and children
- · Strong leadership skills
- Ability to respect other professionals within the speech-language pathology field and related fields
- Good time management and planning skills
- Ability to make quick clinical judgments and plans
- Empathy for colleagues as well as clients
- Well-rounded nature, with interest in extra-curricular activities

• Dictionary of Careers in the HEALTH SECTOR



Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health

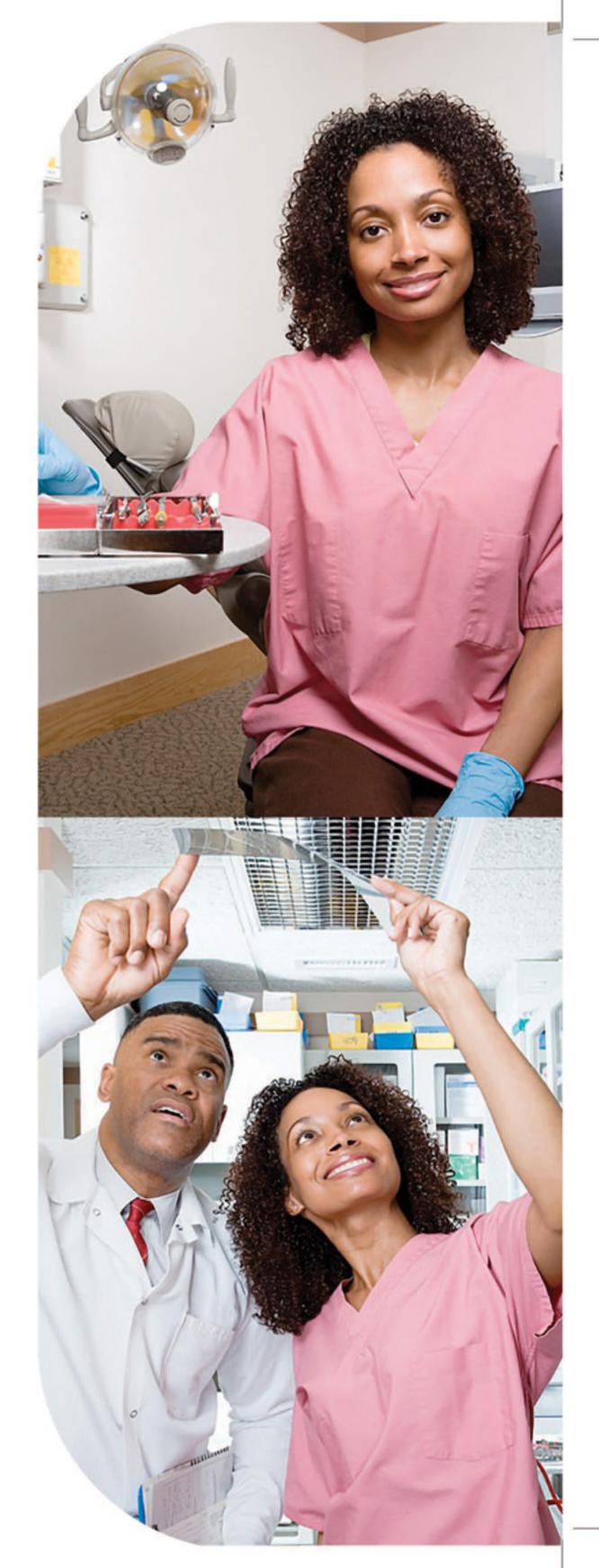


# Auxillary Health Careers

Professions that assist in promoting the health and welfare of persons through non-direct or non-medical techniques and methods.

# DENTAL ASSISTANCE

Dental assistance involves assisting the Dentist, aiding in preparation and general patient duties related to dentistry.



Careers

Auxillary Healtl

### **DUTIES**

### **DENTAL ASSISTANT**

- Develops x-rays.
- · Cleans and sterilizes dental instruments used by dentists.
- Prepares the dental surgery for the next patient.
- Co-ordinates laboratory work for patients.

### QUALIFICATIONS

 CXC CSEC and CAPE passes in courses such as Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, English, Psychology, Social Sciences, Information Technology and Statistics.

### **PROFILE**

The following personal qualities are essential to becoming a successful Dental Assistant:

- Manual precision: Steady hands are important when performing minute actions. Hands must also be dexterous and have muscular endurance for long procedures. Attention to detail is critical.
- Communication and people skills: Excellent communication skills are required to explain procedures
  to the patient to allow him/her to make informed choices as well as to advise the patient clearly and to
  accurately interpret any questions he/she may have.
- Empathy and patience: Showing empathy allows patients to trust the dentist and therefore makes
  the procedure less stressful for both parties involved. Similarly, patience to deal with and calm anxious
  patients is beneficial.
- Cleanliness: A dentist should have good hygiene and a clean and bright treatment room, so that patients will feel confident that they are being treated in a germ free environment.
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills: Dentists should be able to assess the problem the patient is experiencing and determine the best possible treatment to be taken.
- Ability to work well under pressure: The ability to work quickly and efficiently without becoming
  overwhelmed is especially important in emergency situations.

### FIELD INTERVIEWING

A Field Interviewer speaks with and counsels patients diagnosed with Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), as well as identifies their partners and encourages those persons to get tested.



### DUTIES

- Interview patients and give advice on their diagnosis.
- Obtain the names of contacts of the patient.
- Advise patients to inform their partners and encourage them to be tested. If partners have not reported, then the Field Interviewer goes in search of them.
- Educate and interview patients about STDs.
- Visit all patients with reactive blood (positively tested blood) including antenatal patients.
- · Advise on prevention methods and assist in the promotion and distribution of contraceptive material.

### QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum of five (5) CXC CSEC passes in courses such as Mathematics, English and Social Studies.

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to make patients comfortable enough to open up
- Good report writing skills
- Strong decision-making skills
- Strong investigative skills

## MEDICAL RECORDS/ TRANSCRIPTIONS

Medical transcription is the process of converting recorded medical dictations of physicians, and other healthcare professionals, into an understandable and grammatically correct document for placement on a patient's file/chart. These transcriptions are intended to outline any diagnosis and treatment administered to the patient for the purpose of up to date and accurate record keeping.



### **DUTIES**

- Transcribing personal patient information and medical records.
- Transcribing reports and referral letters.
- Reviewing documents to ensure they are grammatically correct and translating abbreviated terms to their full form.
- Making necessary corrections to reviewed documents.
- Maintaining medical record log books/files.

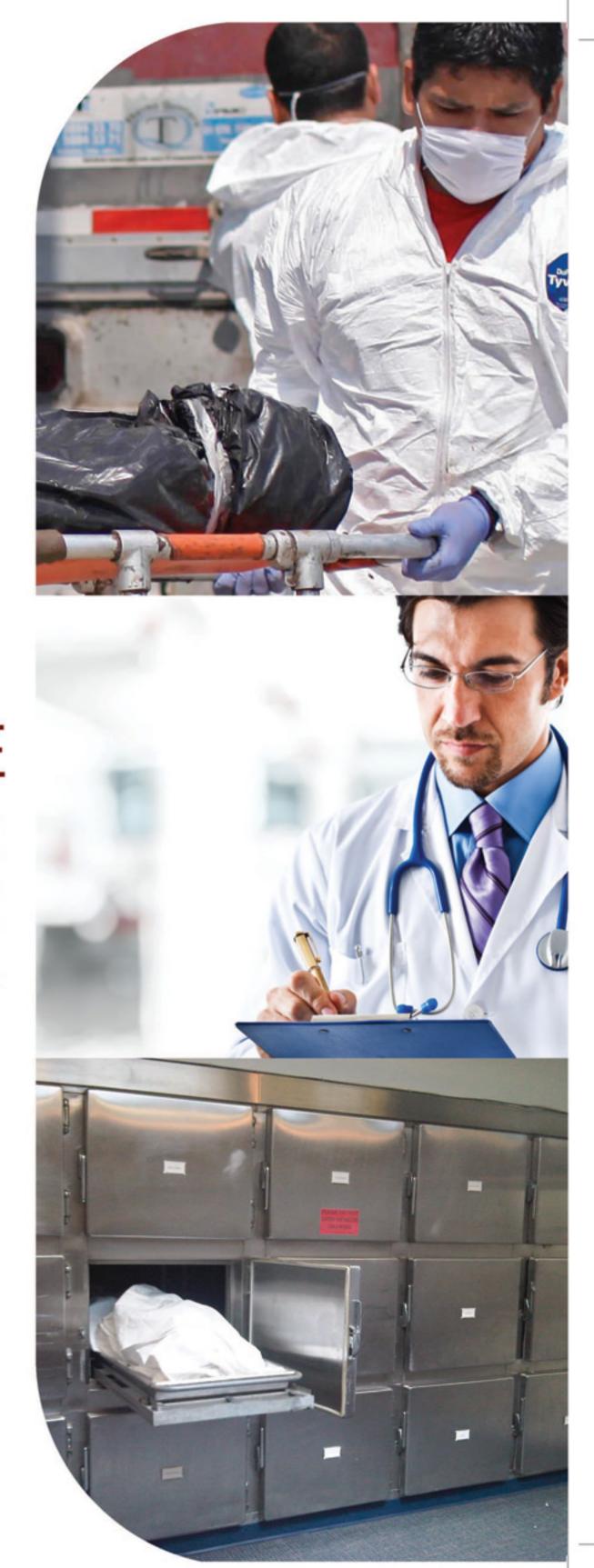
### QUALIFICATIONS

- Five (5) CXC passes inclusive of English and Mathematics; a Science subject is an asset.
- Computer Literacy skills.
- Completion Certificate of Medical Transcription course endorsed by the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and the Medical Data Campus.
- Certification through the Registered Medical Transcription (RMT) Examination or the Certified Medical Transcription (CMT) Examination.

- Ability to work under pressure
- Good listening and literacy skills
- Understanding and respect for patient confidentiality
- Ability to follow instructions
- Willing to work for long hours in a seated position
- Good hand/eye/foot coordination

# MORTUARY ATTENDANCE

A Mortuary Attendant (also known as an Anatomical Pathology Technician) assists a pathologist in conducting post-mortem examinations (dissecting a body to determine cause of death). They also oversee the day-to-day activities of the mortuary.



# Auxillary Health Careers MORTUARY

### **DUTIES**

- Receiving bodies into the mortuary and placing them in cold storage units.
- Assisting with post-mortem examinations.
- Weighing organs and taking necessary samples.
- Reconstructing, stitching and cleaning the body after post-mortem examination.
- Embalming and dressing the body for viewing.
- Sterilizing instruments.
- Keeping records of bodies and possessions.

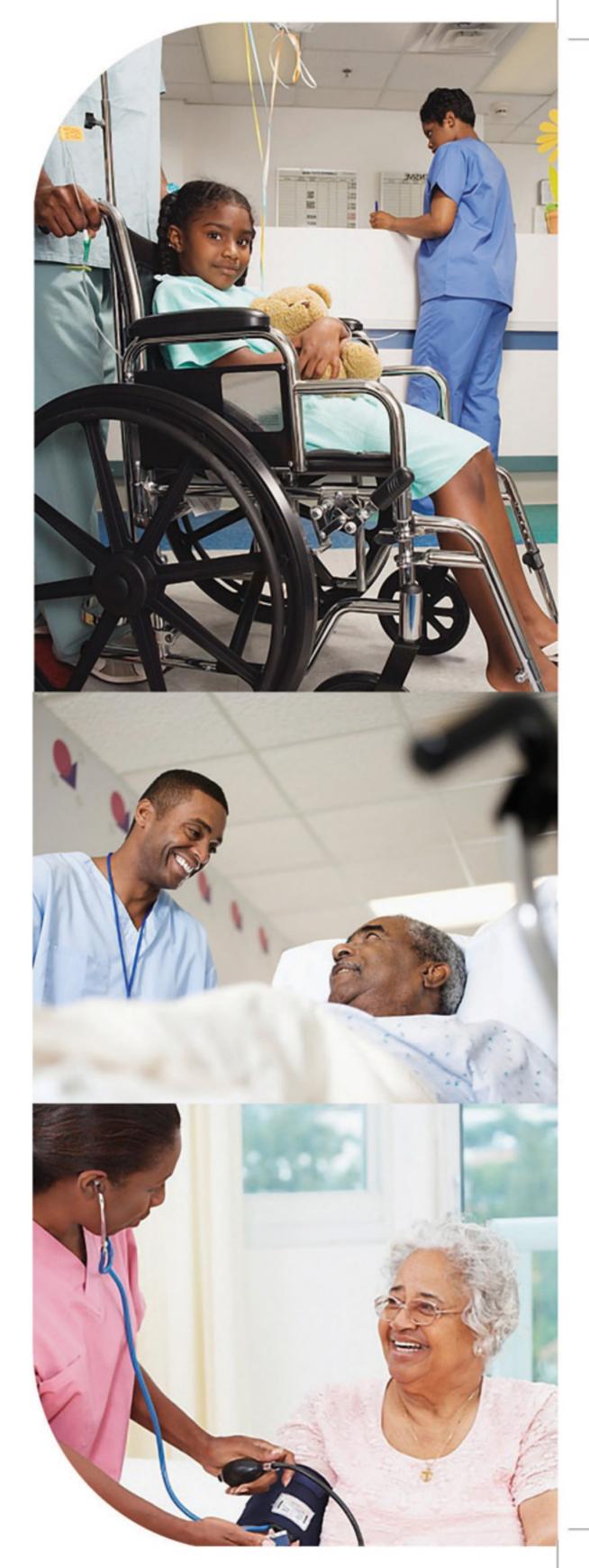
### QUALIFICATIONS

- At least three (3) CXC O'level passes: Biology would be an asset.
- A clean disciplinary employment record.

- Ability to cope with upsetting sights and scents
- Respectful and tactful
- Aware and respectful of cultural and religious differences
- Good hygiene
- · Good record keeping skills

# PATIENT CARE

Patient care involves assessing, treating, caring for and supporting patients' medical needs.



Dictionary of Careers IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

### DUTIES

### PATIENT CARE ASSISTANT

- Assists the Registered Nurse with non-clinical duties such as changing linens and assisting patients at meal time.
- Assists in the maintenance of patient's personal hygiene such as trimming nails, shaving and baths.

### QUALIFICATIONS

### PATIENT CARE ASSISTANT

- At least a School Leaving Certificate
- Successful completion of the Patient Care Assistant Programme

- Manual precision: Steady, dexterous hands are important when performing minute actions. Must also have muscular endurance for long procedures.
- Communication and people skills: Excellent communication skills are required to explain procedures to the patient, clearly advise him/her and accurately interpret any questions he/she may have.
- Empathy and patience: Showing empathy allows patients to become more comfortable with the optometrist. Similarly, patience to deal with and calm anxious patients is beneficial.
- Problem-solving and decision-making skills: Should be able to assess the problem the patient is experiencing and determine the best possible course of action to be taken.
- · Ability to work well under pressure: The ability to work quickly and efficiently without becoming overwhelmed.

• Dictionary of Careers in the HEALTH SECTOR



Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health



# Contact Us

- Ministry and Regional Health AuthoritiesHealth Education Institutions
- Regulatory Boards, Councils and Associations

**CONTACT US • Ministry and Regional Health Authorities** 

### The Ministry of Health (MOH)

Park Street, Port of Spain. 627-0012

### **Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA)**

Supercare Building, Eastern Main Road, Sangre Grande. 668-1105

### North Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA)

Building 39, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt. Hope. 645-2640/ 662-5579

### North West Regional Health Authority (NWRHA)

39 Dundonald Street, Port of Spain. 627-2874

### South West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA)

64 Lewis Street, San Fernando. 653-1734/653-4259

### **Tobago Regional Health Authority (TRHA)**

Bobtail Building, Smithfield Road, Scarborough, Tobago. 639-4791/639-3908

### The Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies

Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC), Mt. Hope. 645-3508

### COSTAATT,

9-11 Melville Lane, Port of Spain. 623-8189/ 623-7455

# Faculty of Science and Technology University of the Southern Caribbean,

Royal Road, Maracas Valley, St. Joseph. 662-2241

### **University of Trinidad & Tobago (UTT)**

O'Meara Campus. 74-96 O'Meara Industrial Estate, Arima. 642-8888

CONTACT US

### The Medical Board of Trinidad & Tobago (MBTT)

Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt Hope. 645-5223

### The Nursing Council of Trinidad & Tobago (NCTT)

The Dolly-Hargreaves House, 25-26 Victoria Square West, Port of Spain. 625-1272

### The Dental Council of Trinidad and Tobago (DCTT)

The Professional Centre, 2nd floor, 11-13 Fitzblackman Drive. 625-7627

### The Pharmacy Board of Trinidad and Tobago (PBTT)

The Professional Centre, 2nd floor, 11-13 Fitzblackman Drive. 627-6731/627-9802

### Trinidad & Tobago Opticians Registration Council (TTORC)

9 Southern Main Road, Chaguanas. 671-1080

### The Council of Professions Related to Medicine

40-42 Goodwood Building, Henry Street, Port-of-Spain. Email: cprmtt@hotmail.com 623-3345

# Regulatory Boards, Councils and Associations

### The Radiographers' Board

Email: radboardtt@gmail.com

### The Physiotherapists' Board

Email: ptboardtt@gmail.com

# Trinidad and Tobago Occupational Therapists Association (TTOTA)

Email: lesleygarcia@yahoo.com

# Speech Language Association of Trinidad and Tobago (SLATT)

Email: keisha.lindsay@gmail.com

### The Medical Laboratory Technicians Board

Email: s\_chanka@yahoo.co.uk

### **Board of Nutritionists and Dietitians**

56B San Fabien Road, Springland, Gasparillo. 689-9819 94 • Dictionary of Careers IN THE HEALTH SECTOR CONTACT US





Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health

# Promoting Careers in Health

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