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Week 7: Medical Terminology

Module 5: Medical Terminology 7: Medical Specialists

Lesson: How Do You Choose the Right Healthcare Professional?

Lesson Overview

Students explore how healthcare professionals develop expertise through specialized training and work together to care for patients. They use evidence from the module to connect symptoms, body systems, and healthcare careers while reflecting on their own interests, strengths, and possible future roles in healthcare.

Learning Targets

Identify which healthcare professional is best for a specific problem.

Explain how symptoms connect to body systems and specialists.

Use evidence to decide what type of care is needed.

Vocabulary

Specialist
a healthcare professional trained in one area

Residency
training in a specific medical field after school

Fellowship
additional training in a smaller specialty

Allied Health Professional
healthcare workers who support doctors

Materials

Module
Student response sheets
Whiteboard or chart paper

Instructional Notes

This lesson builds on students' understanding of body systems and medical terminology by connecting that knowledge to healthcare careers. Students learn that healthcare professionals receive different types of training and develop expertise in specific areas. The lesson shifts students from thinking about healthcare as a single profession to understanding the variety of roles involved in patient care. The conceptual focus is that specialists and allied health professionals have different responsibilities, training pathways, and areas of expertise. Students discover that healthcare decisions depend on matching a patient's needs to the appropriate professional. They also learn that healthcare is a team effort rather than the work of a single person. Students may assume that all doctors do the same job or that specialists simply know more than other healthcare workers. Through the module, students discover that specialists receive focused training and that allied health professionals play essential roles in patient care.



Learning Experience

8 min	Opening	Display the following questions: • Do you enjoy solving problems? • Do you enjoy helping people? • Do you enjoy working with technology? • Do you stay calm during stressful situations? • Do you enjoy working as part of a team? Ask, "Which of these strengths describes you best?" Have students select one strength and explain why they chose it. Then ask, "How might that strength be useful in a healthcare career?" Allow students to discuss ideas with a partner. Tell students they will learn about different healthcare roles and training pathways during the module. Students reflect on their personal strengths and interests. They select one strength they believe describes them and explain their choice. Students discuss how that strength might be useful in healthcare and share ideas with a partner and the class. Sentence Frames: "One strength I have is _____ because _____." "I think this strength could help in healthcare because _____."
15 min	Module	Focus: How healthcare professionals are trained, why specialists exist, and how healthcare teams work together. Guiding Questions: • What training do doctors complete? • Why do specialists exist? • How do healthcare teams work together? Quick Checks: • What are the steps to becoming a physician? • What is the purpose of residency training? • What does a specialist focus on? • What is the purpose of fellowship training? • Why do healthcare teams work together?
15 min	Application	Display the following challenge: "A community healthcare career fair is helping students learn about healthcare professions. Students will use evidence from the module to determine which healthcare careers best match specific interests, strengths, and patient-care situations." Display the following profiles: Profile A: Enjoys science, solving complex problems, and working with adults who have difficult medical conditions. Profile B: Enjoys helping children and wants to work with young patients and families. Profile C: Enjoys technology and creating images that help diagnose medical problems. Profile D: Enjoys helping people with breathing difficulties and working directly with patients. Remind students to use evidence from the module when making decisions.



		Students begin by identifying the strengths. They determine the most important strengths, interests, or skills in each profile and identify evidence that supports their thinking. Next, students match the career. They select the specialist or allied health profession that best matches each profile and use evidence from the module to justify their choice. Students then explain the connection. They explain how the duties of the healthcare professional connect to the person's interests and strengths and use evidence from the module to support their reasoning. Finally, students reflect and compare. They compare their decisions with a partner, discuss similarities and differences in reasoning, and revise their responses if new evidence strengthens their explanation.
2 min	Reflection	Which healthcare role interests you most and why?
2 min	Career Connections	Healthcare systems depend on specialists, physicians, and allied health professionals working together to support patients. Each professional develops expertise through education and training and contributes unique skills to patient care. Understanding how these roles connect helps people make informed healthcare decisions and explore future career possibilities in healthcare.