

READING AND VOCABULARY

A big hospital is like a small town; it needs thousands of people to make it work. All these people are organized into teams and each person in each team has a rank and often a specialism. In the past, the health care team's chain of command was simple: doctors made decisions and gave senior nurses orders. Senior nurses then instructed junior nurses, and so on. Things are changing. In many countries nurses have much more responsibility than they once had.

One thing is not changing; it is still a doctor who is in charge of a patient's treatment. In Britain, that doctor is called a consultant. Next in line to the consultant is the registrar. Consultants and registrars train the junior doctors who are called house officers or interns. Junior doctors work the same long, unsocial hours that nurses do on the wards. The most senior nurses are nursing officers; they are administrators. Then come ward managers who supervise staff nurses and students.

It is not only doctors and nurses who deliver treatment and care; there are many other specialists too. For example, there are physiotherapists who specialize in exercises to treat injury or dysfunction and occupational therapists who help patients manage every-day living. There are also many people the patient does not meet like lab technicians doing the tests and pharmacists dispensing medicines.

Like any town, a hospital has teams of office staff and ancillary workers such as porters, orderlies, technicians, drivers, cleaners, receptionists and cooks. Every team is essential for the delivery of treatment and care. This includes the volunteers who, without pay, raise money for the hospital and run shops, cinemas, libraries and restaurants.

Comprehension

Use the information in the text to complete the sentences with a, b or c.

- 1 A hospital is like a small town because _____.
 - a it's busy.
 - b it's full of different kinds of people.
 - c there are so many buildings.
- 2 The difference between now and the past is that _____.
 - a nursing is easier.
 - b nurses make more decisions.
 - c nurses work harder.
- 3 Consultants and nursing officers are both _____.
 - a senior staff.
 - b house officers.
 - c in charge of a patient's treatment.
- 4 Ward managers are _____.
 - a nurses.
 - b office workers.
 - c senior doctors.
- 5 Lab technicians and pharmacists _____.
 - a deliver treatment and care.
 - b work in the background.
 - c help the specialists.
- 6 Hospital volunteers are _____.
 - a sometimes needed.
 - b paid well.
 - c essential.