

Doctors, Surgeons, and PAs

I. Types of doctors

Brainstorm: Types of specialists

- A. PhD- A PhD is simply a person who has completed _____
_____. You can get a PhD in many things not related to medicine. For
example, some teachers get a PhD in education.
- B. Read the article on MDs vs DOs and answer these questions:
- What does MD stand for?
 - Look up the definition of allopathic:
 - What does DO stand for?
 - Are DOs doctors?
 - How is DO training different from MD training?

(continue)

f. Fill out the table below by putting a check mark to indicate whether the description applies to an MD or a DO or both.

	MD	DO
Goes to med school		
Participates in a residency program		
Is a licensed doctor		
Can practice medicine in all 50 states		
Can specialize		
Has to take the MCAT before med school		
Tend to score higher on the MCAT		
Can write prescriptions		
Is most common in the Northeast and Midwest		

g. What does AMA stand for?

h. Historically speaking, who was more educated, a physician or surgeon?

i. Most historians agree that today's formal model of training doctors began at

_____ in about 1935.

C. Physicians vs Surgeons

1. All licensed surgeons are doctors (aka physicians), but not all doctors are surgeons.

2. Both physicians and surgeons

- a.
- b. Prescribe and administer treatment for people suffering from injury or disease.
- c. Work in hospitals or outpatient care facilities.
- d. examine patients,
- e. obtain medical histories,
- f. order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests
- g. counsel patients on diet, hygiene, and preventive care.

3. Physicians

Many family practitioners work in small, private offices or clinics, often assisted by a small staff of nurses and administrative personnel.

4. Surgeons

According to the US Dept. of Labor and Statistics:

"Surgeons treat injuries, diseases, and deformities **through operations**. Using a variety of instruments, a surgeon corrects physical deformities, repairs bone and tissue after injuries, or performs preventive or elective surgeries on patients. Although a large number perform general surgery, many surgeons choose to specialize in a specific area.

Specialties include

orthopedic surgery-

neurological surgery-

cardiovascular surgery-

plastic or reconstructive surgery-

Like other physicians, surgeons examine patients, perform and interpret diagnostic tests, and counsel patients on preventive healthcare. Some specialist physicians also perform surgery."

D. Education

The common path to practicing as a physician requires _____ years of education beyond high school and 3 to 8 additional years of internship and residency.

- Students get a 4 year bachelor's degree (BA or BS), then take the MCAT test and apply for medical school.
- Med school typically takes 4 years
The first years are often intense in class and lab work, while the latter stages have clinical rotations.
Clinicals give a chance to see a variety of specialties in action. For instance one may have an emergency room round, then ob/gyn/, then mental health, and then family practice.
- After graduating medical school _____.
They must get a license to practice medicine.
- All states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories license physicians
- Doctors and most medical professionals will have to continue taking classes (many are online), go to conferences, and take tests throughout their professional career.

E. Residency

Residency- you are a doctor, but still considered a novice. You have your degree AND your license to practice medicine (sometimes a limited or restricted license), but will be under the supervision of an attending physician.

3-8 years (8 would be for someone highly specialized like a neurosurgeon).

Doctors are _____ during residency.

Often work brutal hours (varies widely but the max you can work is often quoted as an average of 80 hours).

Interns are usually _____, but this term is not always used.

F. Article: Life as a Medical Student: 12 things you really must know.

Please read the article and answer these questions when you are finished.

1. What did you find most interesting from this article?
2. Name something you found surprising from this article.
3. Did you read anything that made you think "That sounds fun!" or "I could do that"? Explain.
4. Comment on the points made regarding passing tests and learning the material.

Anything else you'd like to comment on?

G. PAs vs NPs

1. PA stands for

They are not doctors. Physician assistants and nurse practitioners are considered mid-level practitioners. Kind of between a nurse and a doctor.

2. NP stands for

As the name implies, nurse practitioners are considered a type of nurse.

3. Both are considered mid-level health practitioners (above a nurse but below a doctor).

4. Please follow the link to look at the chart comparing PAs, NPs, and MDs.

<http://www.thepalife.com/physician-assistant-vs-nurse-practitioner-vs-medical-doctor/>

Note: an X on the chart means= yes they can perform this

The chart will incorporate other health professions as well, but for these questions, compare only the 3 professions in the title:

- a. Which of the 3 can perform a physical?
- b. Which of the 3 can perform surgery?
- c. Which of the 3 must have a residency?
- d. Do physician assistants (PAs) train more like a doctor or a nurse?
- e. Can PAs prescribe medications?
- f. Can a Nurse Practitioner (NP) prescribe medication?
- g. Since NPs and PAs make about the same amount of money, why would a person choose one over the other? (research this further if you need to)
- h. Also take note just for your information, how much more does the average doctor make than a PA

5. NP vs PA- a matter of autonomy