Report on Emerging Healthcare Jobs

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics\(^1\) defines an emerging career as an occupation that currently has small numbers but that is expected to grow much larger in the future; many Healthcare careers fall into this category. The following information identifying emerging healthcare jobs was compiled from a variety of sources.

**2010 Research Study**

In research study, *How Boomers Can Help Improve Health Care: Emerging Encore Career Opportunities in Health Care*\(^2\) (2010) the researchers listed six new occupations identified by a panel of national experts in workforce and healthcare issues.

1. Community health worker
2. Chronic illness coach
3. Medications coach
4. Patient navigator/advocate
5. Home- and community-based service navigator/advocate
6. Home modification specialist

**Health Information Technicians**

Healthcare information technology tops the list of top 10 ‘hot careers’ for college graduates in 2011, according to a new study from the University of San Diego Extension\(^3\). Due to government initiatives in recent years, the study states, the healthcare industry adopted an advanced technology system for managing and utilizing health information; medical establishments have the goal of transferring all healthcare information to an advanced technology-driven database within the next decade to support medical record reform.

The study also pointed out that technicians are also needed for emerging healthcare jobs such as:

- healthcare integration engineer
- health system analyst
- technology support specialist
- clinical IT consultant

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\(^1\) [http://www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)


\(^3\) [http://extension.ucsd.edu/about/images/careerReport.pdf](http://extension.ucsd.edu/about/images/careerReport.pdf)
In its 2011 top seven emerging jobs Careerpath.com lists Health Informatics Technician as No. 2 and Patient Advocate as No. 7 respectively. (From as early as December 2007 the U.S. News and World Report had listed Patient Advocates, Wellness Coaches and Health Informatics Specialists as “cutting-edge occupations”.)

Jobs.com indicates that many colleges and universities are pushing their students to pursue the following healthcare careers:

- Nurse Clinical Specialists
- Speech Pathology (Speech-language pathologists, or speech therapists)
- Perianesthesia Nurses

Nurses

MinorityNurse.com describes several emerging jobs for nurses:

- **Nursing Informatics**: A nursing specialty that integrates nursing science, computer science and information science to manage and communicate data, information, knowledge and wisdom in nursing practice.
- **Fitness nurses**: Work with patients recovering from surgery or dealing with illness to help restore strength through nutrition and exercise.
- **Holistic nurses**: May work in hospitals, doctors’ offices or wellness centers, help patients achieve health and wellness through holistic healing methods such as nutrition, herbs, meditation, yoga and Reiki.
- **Gerontological nurses**: Work in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and patients' homes. These Healthcare practitioners focus on taking care of the elderly, one of the fastest growing segments of the population.

Job.com indicates that while there had been a boost of male nurses in the industry, men still hold just a fraction of nursing jobs. It suggests that popular areas for male nurses to pursue include:

- crucial care
- emergency and trauma nursing
- flight nursing

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4 [www.careerpath.com/career-advice/7-emerging-jobs](http://www.careerpath.com/career-advice/7-emerging-jobs)
6 [http://www.jobs.com](http://www.jobs.com)
7 Hot Jobs, Emerging Careers, [http://www.minoritynurse.com](http://www.minoritynurse.com)
Nursing informatics and Anesthesiologist assistants have been listed by Monster.com⁸ as two of the “newest professions” with “growing salaries” that have been listed in the latest directory of job titles from Occupational Information Network. Life Care Planning is also a growing field, particularly for elderly patients, and Life Care Planners, Case Workers and Patient Advocates will see a rise in demand for their services, according to Careervision.org⁹. Work in this field includes conducting assessments, research, navigating the health care system, and planning and managing services.

Healthcare Trainer/Educators
As medical schools and healthcare educational facilities respond to the need for additional professionals in the industry training opportunities for Healthcare educators will increase. O*Net¹⁰ is projecting a “Bright Outlook” for Health Educators.

E-Health Jobs
Staff with new and upgraded skills will be needed for the emerging fields of E-Health, a relatively recent term for healthcare practice supported by electronic processes and communication. These areas include:

- **Electronic health records**: enabling the communication of patient data between different healthcare professionals (GPs, specialists etc.);
- **Telemedicine**: physical and psychological treatments at a distance;
- **Consumer health informatics**: use of electronic resources on medical topics by healthy individuals or patients;
- Health **knowledge management**: e.g. in an overview of latest medical journals, best practice guidelines or epidemiological tracking (examples include physician resources such as Medscape and MDLinx);
- **Virtual healthcare teams**: consisting of healthcare professionals who collaborate and share information on patients through digital equipment (for transmural care);
- **mHealth or m-Health**: includes the use of mobile devices in collecting aggregate and patient level health data, providing healthcare information to practitioners, researchers, and patients, real-time monitoring of patient vitals, and direct provision of care (via mobile telemedicine);
- Medical research using **Grids**: powerful computing and data management capabilities to handle large amounts of heterogeneous data.
- **Healthcare Information Systems**: also often refer to software solutions for appointment scheduling, patient data management, work schedule management and other administrative tasks surrounding health.¹¹

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⁹ [http://www.careervision.org/About/Emerging_Career_Fields.htm](http://www.careervision.org/About/Emerging_Career_Fields.htm)

¹⁰ [http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/27-3091.00](http://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/27-3091.00)