

Introduction to the Health Professions

SIXTH EDITION

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This *Sixth Edition of Introduction to the Health Professions* is dedicated with appreciation and gratitude to many, but especially to:

the great teachers who channel their energies into preparing students for health careers. We salute you.

Those dedicated and caring students who have chosen careers of service to humanity and are sharing their talents with others.
We wish you great success.

Our dear friend, Jim Keating, who many years ago started the writing careers of two of the authors and continues to support and encourage their endeavors.
Much love to you, Jim.

Colleagues who through the years have given help and support in so many ways.
You are greatly valued.

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Preface

We are pleased to provide you with this expanded and revised *Sixth Edition* of *Introduction to the Health Professions*. We'd like to thank the teachers for their continued use of the book, and we hope this edition continues to meet their needs. As you have seen, the health field is very fluid, and in this edition we have tried to include as much new information as space would permit.

We kept the existing two major categories in place with the necessary upgrades, and we have made changes as follows.

Revisions of Chapters 1–6 cover the following:

- Changes in the demographics of the population requiring healthcare workers trained in geriatrics and health literacy to meet the needs of the elderly as well as individuals from various ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- High demand for all healthcare workers in spite of the downturn in the economy.
- Historical review of the health insurance industry in the United States.
- Expansion of the discussion of public health care—Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- A new chapter on healthcare reform as a result of the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act modified by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.
- Details on the implementation of healthcare reform by individual states with the establishment of high-risk pools and health insurance exchanges for individuals and small employers.
- Information on educational grants and loan repayment programs as part of healthcare reform to meet the need for primary care providers—physicians, advanced nurse practitioners, and physician assistants—with more Americans having access to health care.
- Internet links to video clips of interviews of various healthcare professionals.

As presented in the previous editions, the changes that have occurred in each profession are modified from the latest *Occupational Outlook* (U.S. Department of Labor, 2010–2011). A brief analysis of the changes in the chapters on health professions is as follows:

- Twenty-one chapters are completely rewritten (1–7, 9, 12, 14, 17, 19, 20–22, and 25–30), in accordance with descriptions from the latest *Occupational Outlook*. Six chapters (11, 13, 15, 18, 23, and 31) are revised with new selected data on work descriptions, education and legal requirements, employment trends, and earnings. Information has been deleted from some of these chapters because it is no longer applicable.
- In four chapters (8, 10, 16, and 24), discussion on some professions is completely rewritten while others are revised in selected areas. Information on athletic trainers is compiled into a completely new chapter (22).
- All the chapters pertaining to health information personnel, health services administration, federal and state regulators, and health education (26–29) have been updated according to the latest *Occupational Outlook*, especially information regarding educational and certification requirements, salaries, and anticipated job growth. Other revisions cover the changes in roles and responsibilities in health careers in accordance with changes in healthcare delivery systems. An example is the use of electronic medical records.

The progress of technology and the demands of the population reflect the need for more health services and additional training of health workers in many fields. Students will need to upgrade their own education to meet the requirements of the changing scene.

Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation to those people who have assisted us in the production of this book and say thank you very much to Publisher Dave Cella and his colleagues for their encouragement and support. You are highly valued for your helpful suggestions and friendship.

The contents of the text material for each profession were largely obtained from government sources, especially *Occupational Outlook*, 2010–2011, the Department of Labor. We also obtained information from the organizations representing each profession, as well as various documents through the Internet and selected reports in current journals, magazines, and newspapers. We used some literature from college catalogs and other professional literature.

We appreciate the contributions of myriad groups of scientists, organizations, and others whose combined efforts provided us with national health objectives for the next 10 years (*Healthy People 2010–2020: Understanding and Improving Health*, Department of Health and Human Services). It reflects the scientific advances of the past 20 years and provides insight into trends and opportunities for improvement in the coming decades.

Last, but certainly not least, we thank the teachers and students whose expressed wishes for this kind of information has propelled us to the *Sixth Edition*. We truly hope that it will satisfy your need for information regarding the various health professions available to you and the challenges that await you.

Please let us know your thoughts and wishes so we can serve you even better with the next edition.

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