

Overview of Health Facility Types

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(A quick reference guide for students, health?care professionals, and policy makers)

1. Primary Health Care (PHC) Facilities

Purpose: First point of contact for individuals and communities; focus on prevention, health promotion, early detection, and basic treatment.

Facility Type	Typical Services	Staffing	Example Settings
Community Health Center (CHC)	Immunizations, maternal & child health, chronic disease screening, health education	Family physicians, nurses, community health workers, pharmacists	Urban neighborhoods, rural towns
Health Post / Clinic	Outpatient visits, minor injuries, basic lab tests, dispensing of essential medicines	Nurse practitioner or clinical officer + support staff	Remote villages, refugee camps
Mobile Health Unit	Outreach vaccinations, health education, screening for infectious diseases	Multidisciplinary team (nurse, lab tech, health educator)	Hard?to?reach areas, disaster zones
School?Based Health Center	Vision/hearing screening, mental?health counseling, first aid, health promotion	School nurse, counselor, part?time physician	Primary/secondary schools

Key Features

- Emphasis on accessibility and affordability.
 - Often government?funded or supported by NGOs.
 - Serve as gatekeepers to higher?level care (referral system).
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2. Secondary Health Care Facilities

Purpose: Provide more specialized diagnostic, therapeutic, and surgical services that cannot be delivered at the primary level.

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Facility Type	Typical Services	Staffing	Example Settings
General Hospital (District/Regional)	Inpatient care, emergency department, obstetrics, basic surgery, imaging (X-ray, ultrasound)	General surgeons, internists, obstetricians, radiologists, nursing staff	District capitals, regional hubs
Specialty Hospital	Focused services such as cardiology, orthopedics, oncology, pediatrics	Subspecialists, allied health professionals, advanced nursing	Urban centers, teaching hospitals
Day Surgery Center	Same-day surgical procedures, minor anesthesia, post-op monitoring	Surgeons, anesthesiologists, perioperative nurses	Suburban clinics, private practice groups
Rehabilitation Center	Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, post-stroke care	Rehab physicians, therapists, social workers	Community hospitals, dedicated rehab facilities

Key Features

- Admit patients for 24-hour or longer stays.
- Equipped with labs, imaging, and operating theatres.
- Serve a defined catchment area (often a county or province).

3. Tertiary Health Care Facilities

Purpose: Deliver highly specialized, complex, and often technology-intensive care for rare or severe conditions.

Facility Type	Typical Services	Staffing	Example Settings
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Academic/Teaching Hospital	Organ transplants, neurosurgery, advanced oncology, clinical trials	Professors, sub?specialists, residents, research scientists	University campuses, national referral centers
National/Reference Hospital	Rare disease management, national health programs, policy research	Top?tier specialists, multidisciplinary teams	Capital cities, health ministries
Quaternary Care Center <i>(sub?category of tertiary)</i>	Experimental therapies, gene therapy, complex congenital surgery	Highly specialized clinicians, research staff	Elite research hospitals, biotech hubs

Key Features

- State?of?the?art equipment (e.g., MRI, PET, robotic surgery)