

Pre-Reading Discussion: What other health professionals besides doctors, nurses, and their assistants do you or your family go to for health care?

## Reading Passage Section 2: Health Professionals

You can make good decisions about your health and your family's health. To make good health decisions, you need to know:

- what different health professionals do, and
- where to get health care.



People who provide health care services are called health professionals. Some health professionals are:

- **Pharmacists.** Pharmacists work in **pharmacies** to prepare medicines. Pharmacists fill your **prescriptions** and answer questions about medications. Pharmacists also give written information about medication, diseases, and preventive health care.
- **Dentists.** Dentists are doctors who examine your **teeth, gums, and tongue**. They treat problems in your mouth. Dentists can also prescribe medication. Some dentists also do oral surgery or operations in your **mouth**.
- **Dental hygienists.** Dental hygienists help dentists. They may take **x-rays** and clean teeth. They can also show you how to keep your teeth healthy.
- **Paramedics and EMTs (emergency medical technicians).** Paramedics and EMTs respond to **emergencies**. They usually treat you in your home and then take you to the hospital in an **ambulance**.