

Hospital and its Organization

The word “hospital” derived from the Latin word “hospitalis” which in turn derived from French word “*hospes*” that means “a host or a guest”.

DEFINITION OF HOSPITAL

Hospital is a complex organization and an institute which provides health to people through complicated but specialized scientific equipments, and a team of trained staff educated in the problems of modern medical science.

or

It can be defined as an institution of community health or a specialized complex organization which makes use of physicians, surgeons, and a team of technical staff. It also provides facilities for diagnosis, therapy, rehabilitation, prevention, education and research.

Thus, the hospital is a specialized body where the patient care is the focal point and about which all the activities of the hospital revolves.

CLASSIFICATION OF HOSPITALS

These are divided into three parts (based on size/facilities):

- i. Primary hospital
- ii. Secondary hospital
- iii. Tertiary hospital

Primary Hospitals (Small Hospitals)

Primary hospital provides the first contact between individuals and families with the health system. Primary hospital aim is to serve the community, their functions are:

- Care for mother and child which also include family planning
- Immunization and vaccination
- Prevention of communicable and endemic diseases
- Treatment of common diseases or injuries
- Providing knowledge about diet, nutrition and safe drinking water.

In India, primary hospital facility is provided through a network of Sub-center and Primary Health Center in rural areas, whereas in urban areas, it is provided through Health posts and Family Welfare Center. The Primary Health Centre (PHC), staffed by Medical Officer and other paramedical staff. Example is local hospitals in town.

Secondary Hospitals (Medium Hospitals)

Secondary hospitals are those where patients from primary health care are referred to specialists in higher hospitals for treatment. For example District Hospitals and Community Health Centre at block level. They provide complete health services and medical education, and also for some research work. They include cardiologists, urologists, dermatologist and other such specialists. They include acute care, short period stay, emergency department, etc., for example, District Hospitals and Community Health Centres.

Tertiary Hospitals (Large Hospitals)

They are providing specialist health services and play a vital role in medical education and in scientific research. This type of hospital is known as specialized hospital usually for inpatients referred from primary and secondary hospital for advanced medical investigation and treatment. These hospitals provide additional care services and remain open for 24 hours every day. They offer advanced medical investigation, diagnosis, treatment and special services such as neurosurgery,

cancer management, cardiac surgery, etc., for example, PGI Chandigarh, Lucknow; AIIMS, etc.

CLASSIFICATION OF HOSPITALS

Hospitals can be classified in a number of ways. Following are the five types of classification:

- a. Clinical basis
- b. Ownership and control basis
- c. On basis of different systems of medicine
- d. On the basis of cost
- e. On the basis of size

Clinical Basis of Classification

Humans are infected by a number of different diseases. The word 'Clinical' refers to the treatment of disease in a human being. Different types of diseases need different modes and means of treatment.

On the basis of different types of clinical treatment hospitals may be classified as:

1. **Medicine:** These are general purpose hospitals that provide treatment to the common people of a country. There is no boundary or margin between the types of treatment provided. A surgeon can advise about treatment with drugs and a physician can perform surgery if required. There are different types of hospitals providing specialized care for particular types of diseases.
 - i. General hospital or family physician
 - ii. Pediatrics hospital
 - iii. Communicable disease hospital
 - iv. Mental or psychiatric disease hospital
 - v. Drug addiction or rehabilitation hospital
 - vi. Dental hospital
 - vii. Cancer hospital
2. **Maternity hospital:** It is specialized to deal with child birth (obstetrics) and problems related to female reproductive system (gynecological services) along with antenatal (during pregnancy) and neonatal (newborn child) care.

3. **Surgical hospitals:** These are specialized to perform surgical operations. There are different types of surgical hospitals like:
- i. Orthopedics (surgery related to bone fracture)
 - ii. Otolaryngological (related to ear, nose, throat surgery)
 - iii. Cardiothoracic (related to heart and lungs)
 - iv. General surgery of any kind
 - v. Neurological (related to surgery of brain and spinal cord)
 - vi. Kidney hospital (related to kidney transplant and dialysis services)

On the Basis of Ownership and Control

According to this type of classification hospital may be of two types:

1. Government hospital

- a. Public health service centers or civil hospital, e.g. AIIMS, New Delhi, Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Puducherry government hospitals of different cities, university health centers, etc. All these hospitals may be associated with teaching institutions like medical college.
- b. Military hospitals for Army, Air Force and Navy personnel.

2. Nongovernment hospital

- a. Private run hospitals for profit, e.g. Apollo Hospital, Escort Hospital, Sterling Hospital.
- b. Charitable trust hospitals, e.g. Ram Krishna Mission Hospital, Kolkata; Christian Missionary Hospital, Vellore; Muljibhai Hospital, Nadiad, etc.

On the Basis of System of Medicine

Apart from allopathic system of medicine in India, there are some other systems which are also followed upon. Hence, there could be another classification of hospitals based upon the system of medicine they are practicing. So, they can be classified as follows:

1. Allopathic hospitals
2. Homoeopathic hospitals
3. Ayurvedic hospitals

4. Unani hospitals
5. Naturopathy hospitals

On the Basis of Size

Based upon the number of beds available in the hospital, they can be classified into the following categories:

1. Large hospitals: Beds are 1000 and above
2. Medium hospitals: Beds are between 500 and 1000
3. Small hospitals: Beds are between 100 and 500
4. Very small hospitals: Beds <100

On the Basis of Cost

Based upon the types of facilities hospitals provide to the patient, the overall cost of the hospital increases. Hence, based upon the cost invested in the hospital they can be classified into the following categories:

1. **Elite hospitals:** These are symbols of high technology and advances in medical sciences. They have rooms equipped with TV, telephones; refrigerator, etc. Room's rates are also comparatively higher. These elite institutions have provision for some poor people for their treatment and stay.
2. **Budget hospital:** These hospitals are meant for middle class and lower middle class people, e.g. civil hospital and charitable hospital.

ORGANIZATION OF HOSPITAL

Organization of a hospital is a process in which various managerial activities involved in the proper running of hospital brings people together and binds them together for the achievement of common goals and objectives of the hospital. In many respects the organization of a hospital is very much common with that of an industry, and the apparent difference is superficial, i.e. the functioning of the two is very much at the same par. The most important body of any hospital is the governing body of the hospital or Board of Directors or Board of Trustees. Various eminent personalities in the field of medical education, research and administration becomes part of the governing body. It may also include politicians, social workers and personalities of different fields. The organization of a

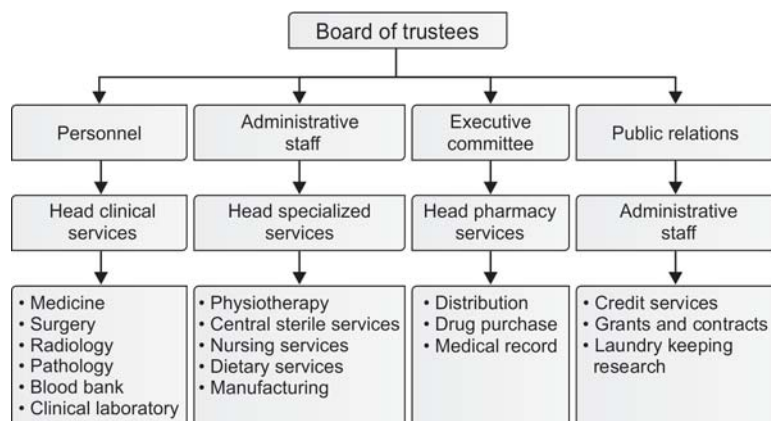


Fig. 1.1: Organization structure of hospital.

hospital can be broadly classified into the following categories as shown in **Fig. 1.1**.

MEDICAL STAFF IN HOSPITAL

There are many people who work together to provide successful treatment in a hospital. The key roles for staff in a hospital can be broadly categorized into five areas:

- i. Doctors
- ii. Nurses
- iii. Pharmacist
- iv. Allied health professionals
- v. Support staff.

All these people play an important role in treatment and recovery of patient.

Doctors

Doctors have different roles and responsibilities based on their level of experience and their medical specialty. These roles include:

- i. Senior consultants—specialist doctors who see patients at specific times.
- ii. Residents—look after patients on the ward and are in training for specialization.

- iii. Interns have completed their studies and are now finishing their final year in hospital.

Nurses

Like doctors, nurses have different roles and responsibilities based on their experience and specialties. Their roles include:

- i. Maintaining the ward.
- ii. Clinical work like giving injection, doing bandage and helping doctor in operation theater.
- iii. Provide basic medical care like checking the blood pressure, checking temperature and blood glucose under the supervision of doctor.

Allied Health Professionals

Allied health professionals are university-educated practitioners who work as part of your multidisciplinary healthcare team. They assess, diagnose and treat conditions and work to prevent disease and disability.

Some examples of allied health professionals include:

- i. Dietitians
- ii. Occupational therapists
- iii. Pharmacists
- iv. Physiotherapists
- v. Speech pathologists.

Other Hospital Staff

Keeping a hospital running requires a great deal of organization and administration. During your other hospital support staff which helps the patient are:

- i. Clinical assistants—take care of ward housekeeping
- ii. Patient services assistants—bring meals and drinks
- iii. Ward boys—staff the ward reception desks.

Functions of a Hospital

Hospital is an integral part of a social and medical organization, the function of which is to provide for the population, the complete healthcare, both curative and preventive the various functions involve in hospitals are:

Patient care: Patient care involves diagnosis, treatment of illness or injury preventive medicine and personalized services.

Education services: By imparting teaching to physician, nurses, pharmacist, medical staff, hospital administration and training. Also giving education to patient like general education, social education for rehabilitation health care and patient counseling.

General public health care: Telling about prophylaxis measurement and creating awareness about disease, hygiene and their transmission.

For example: Program for TB, diabetic, hypertension and cancer. To participation in mass public inoculation program, etc. The other functions of hospitals are:

- i. Diagnosis and treatment of disease
- ii. Outpatient services
- iii. Prevention of disease, and
- iv. Promotion of health.

ISOLATED KEY POINTS

- The word “hospital” derived from the Latin word “hospitalis” which in turn derived from French word “hospes” that means “a host or a guest”.
- Hospital is an specialized complex organization which makes use of physicians, surgeons, and a team of technical staff. It also provides facilities for diagnosis, therapy, rehabilitation, prevention, education and research.
- **Primary hospital** provides the first contact between individuals and families with the health system.
- **Secondary hospitals** are those where patients from primary health care are referred to specialists in higher hospitals for treatment.
- **Tertiary hospitals** are known as specialized hospital usually for inpatients referred from primary and secondary hospital for advanced medical investigation and treatment. Examples are cardiac surgery, cancer management.
- Hospitals are classified on the basis of:
 - a. Clinical basis

- b. Ownership and control basis
- c. On the basis of different systems of medicine
- d. On the basis of cost
- e. On the basis of size
- The various medical staff in hospital are:
 - a. Doctors
 - b. Nurses
 - c. Pharmacists
 - d. Allied health professionals
 - e. Support staff.
- The various functions of a hospital are:
 - a. Patient care
 - b. Education services
 - c. General public healthcare
 - d. Diagnosis and treatment of disease
 - e. Outpatient services
 - f. Prevention of disease, and
 - g. Promotion of health.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Define hospital.
2. Define hospital according to WHO.
3. What is a primary care hospital?
4. What is a tertiary care hospital?
5. Enlist various medical staff in a hospital.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. What are the primary and secondary care hospitals?
2. Classify various types of hospitals with suitable examples.
3. Classify hospitals according to system of medicines.
4. Classify hospitals based on economy.
5. Describe the supportive services in a hospital.
6. Describe the role and responsibilities of the supportive services in a hospital.
7. Discuss the functions of hospital in detail.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. What are hospitals? Classify different types of hospitals. Describe in brief about classification of hospitals based upon:
 - a. Clinical basis
 - b. On the basis of different systems of medicines
 - c. On the basis of size
2. Describe hospital organization with the help of a chart.
3. Write a short note on history of hospitals. Give the objectives and function of it.
4. Define the functions and objectives of a modern hospital.

Objective Type Questions

1. Large hospital is a hospital that contains:
 - A. Less than 500 beds
 - B. More than 100 beds
 - C. Beds between 500 and 1000
 - D. More than 1000 beds
2. On the basis of ownership and control, hospitals can be classified as:
 - A. Elite and budget hospital
 - B. Government and non-government hospital
 - C. Medicine and maternity hospital
 - D. Allopathic and homoeopathic hospital
3. Allied health professionals in a hospital include:
 - A. Dieticians
 - B. Ward boys
 - C. Pharmacists
 - D. Doctor
4. Which hospital is referred as specialized hospital
 - A. Primary
 - B. Secondary
 - C. Tertiary
 - D. None of these
5. Match the items of column I and with appropriate items in column II

Column I

- A. On the basis of size
- B. On the basis of cost
- C. On the basis of ownership and control
- D. Clinical basis
- E. On the basis of different types of medicines

Column II

- i. Allopathic, homoeopathic, ayurvedic, unani, naturopathy
- ii. Medicine, maternity, surgical
- iii. Large, medium, small, very small
- iv. Government, non-government
- v. Elite, budget

Answers

1. D 2. A 3. C 4. C 5. A(iii), B(v), C(iv), D(ii), E(i)