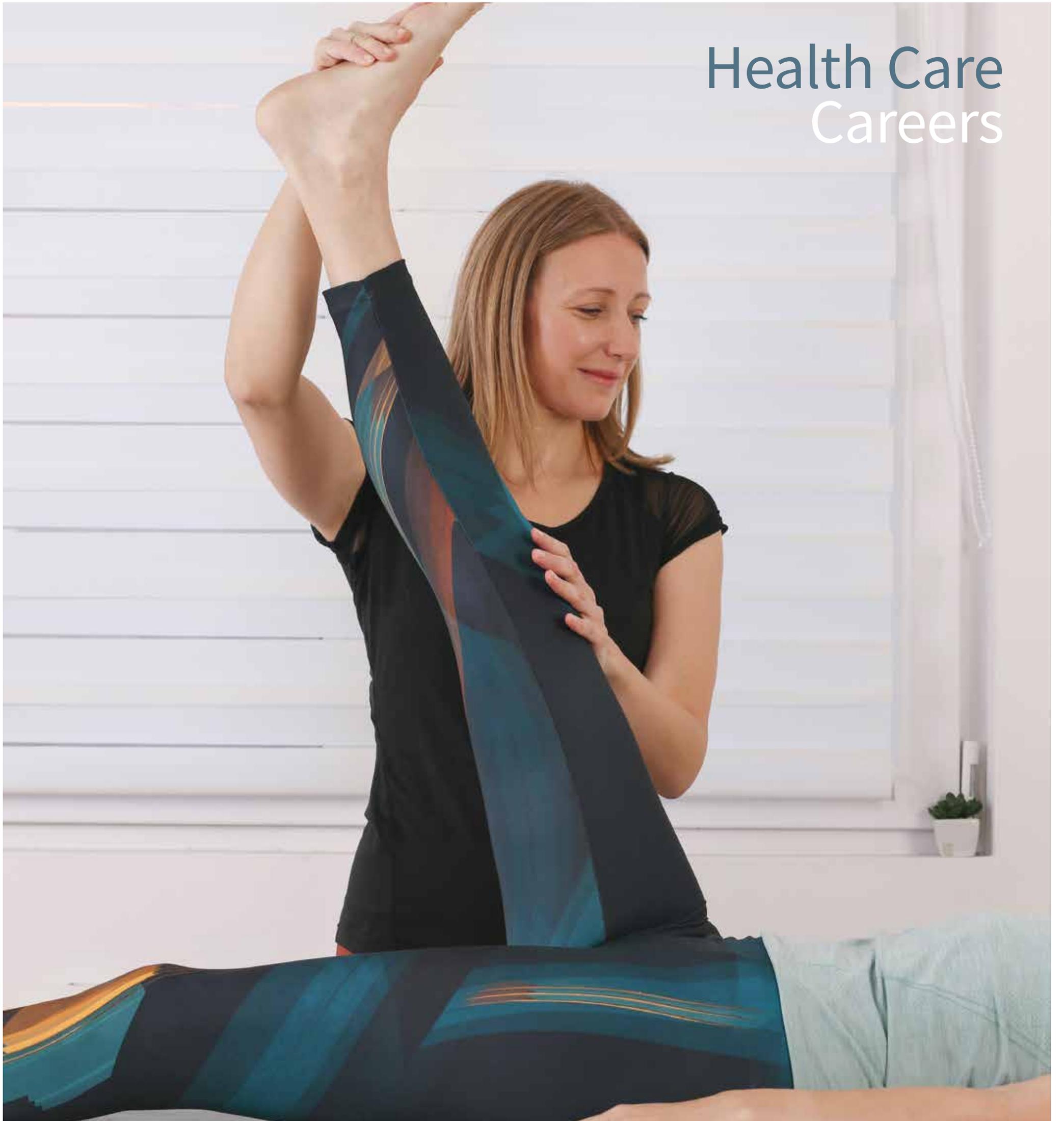


# Health Care Careers



# Medical Repair Technician

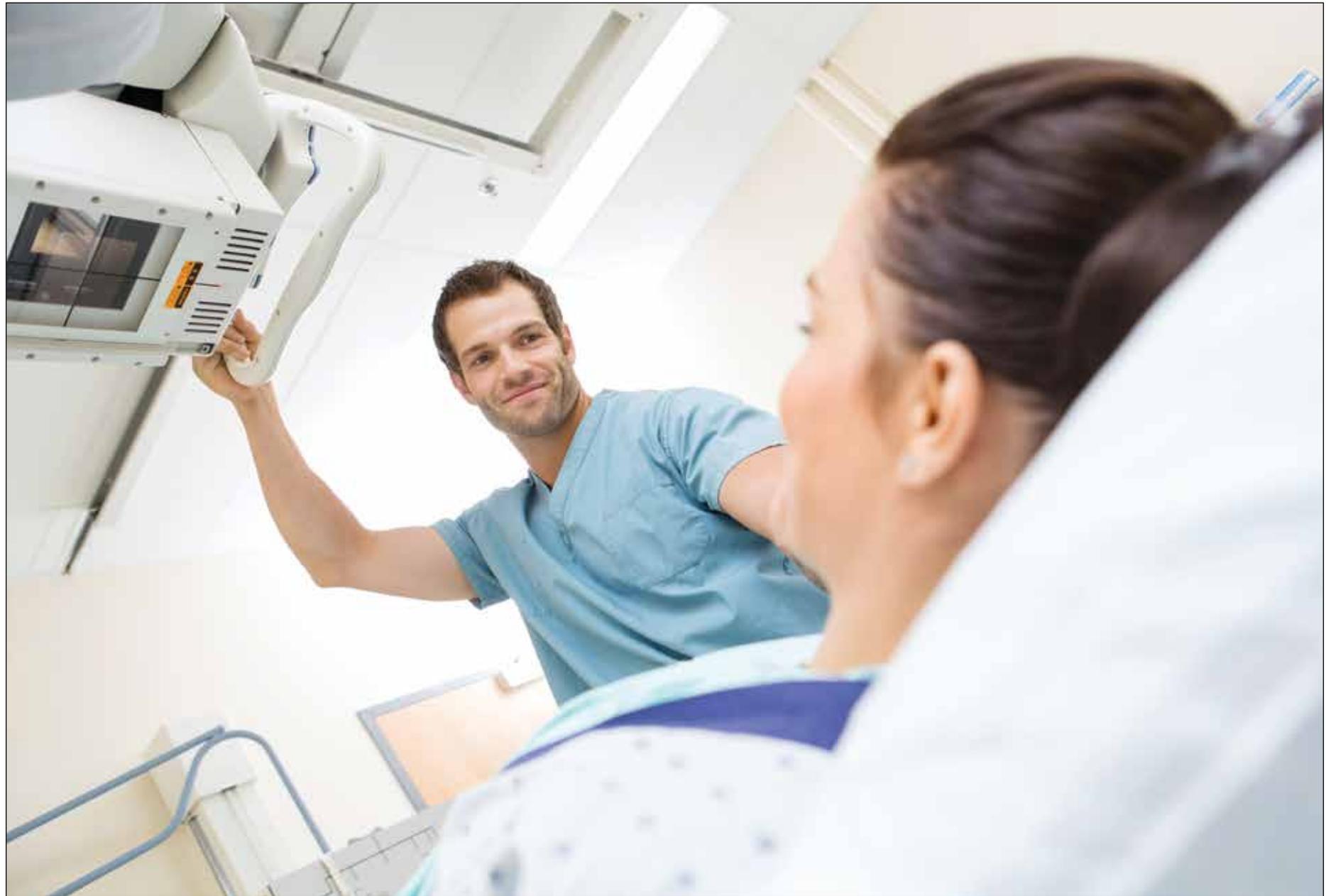
The health care industry is continuously innovating and improving the way experts care for patients and save lives.

Because most offices and hospitals rely on high-tech equipment in the modern world, there is a constant need for personnel to ensure machines and working efficiently. If you're looking for an excellent medical position but injuries and illnesses make you uncomfortable, a medical equipment repair field job can serve as a bountiful career.

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics suggests that the industry's demand for workers will increase 5% by 2029. The growth is expected to result in the creation of 2,800 new positions. Most experts in the field are required to hold a minimum of an associate degree and make a median annual salary of about \$49,000.

## DETAILS OF THE POSITION

Repair technicians must understand intricate diagrams, schematics and blueprints to troubleshoot, problem-solve and fix equipment issues. Often, the only resource for diagnosis is discovered by analyzing the



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machine's manual. Techs should be well-versed in disassembling devices and reinstalling the critical parts for proper performance.

Thorough knowledge of microprocessor and micro-computer skills are also beneficial for making an efficient repair.

## ENTERING THE FIELD

This position's educational requirements can vary

depending on the hiring facility's demands and the types of repairs a technician is performing.

For instance, for those who will work on simple machines like electric wheelchairs or hospital beds, on-the-job training may be acceptable. However, for in-depth equipment like defibrillators, scanning devices and X-ray technology, a bachelor's degree is typically required.

## FINDING A JOB

When searching for a job, set your sights beyond just medical facilities. Check out these statistics from the BLS regarding where repair technicians are employed.

- Twenty-six percent are employed by commercial equipment and supply wholesalers.
- Fourteen percent work for state, local or private hospitals.
- Seven percent are

employed through ambulatory health care services.

- Twelve percent serve as self-employed contract workers.

Once you acquire a position, you should be diligent when researching industry trends to stay current on innovations. The field can be competitive, so having thorough knowledge can give you an edge when you're looking for a promotion or new opportunity.

# Becoming a Phlebotomist

You can acquire a rich and immersive role in a hospital or doctor's office after short programs offered by colleges or technical schools.

A phlebotomist plays an essential role in medical facilities by drawing and preparing blood for diagnosis, transfusions and research purposes. In addition to working in multiple health care environments, experts can also feel a sense of pride by assisting during life-saving blood donation events.

During a routine day, phlebotomists draw blood from patients via venipuncture and finger pricks. When working with infants, they will administer heel pricks. In addition to understanding the process, experts must have good communication skills to interact with nervous patients. They must also direct those in their clinic about how to deal with adverse reactions after a withdrawal.

## EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

According to the Cambridge College of Health care and Technology, many candidates must hold a non-degree diploma or certificate from an accredited college, technical school or vocational school. Specified training usually lasts less than



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a year and combines both classroom learning and hands-on training.

Some hiring managers may require their phlebotomists to obtain and maintain certification from an approved organization, such as the National Center for Competency Testing, the National Health career Association, the American Society for Clinical Pathology; or the American Medical Technologists.

Before applying for a position, compare your certification with the job requirements to avoid applying for jobs without the proper qualifications.

## IMPORTANCE OF PHLEBOTOMY

A phlebotomist serves as a bridge between a patient and the laboratory. After receiving a blood sample, doctors can check for life-threatening dis-

eases and conditions. According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, a withdrawal can help experts:

- Evaluate how well organs are working.
- Diagnose diseases like cancer, HIV, diabetes and coronary heart disease.
- Check how well medications are performing.
- Find risks for the development of heart disease.

Experts in phlebotomy play a critical role in discovering potentially hazardous health conditions.

## JOB OUTLOOK

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that the need for phlebotomists will increase at a rapid rate of 17% by 2029, resulting in 22,800 new positions. In 2019, the median salary was \$35,510, or \$17 per hour.

# Getting a Job Without Experience

Suppose you have recently lost your job or are ready for a change from a current career. In that case, you may find a golden opportunity in health care.

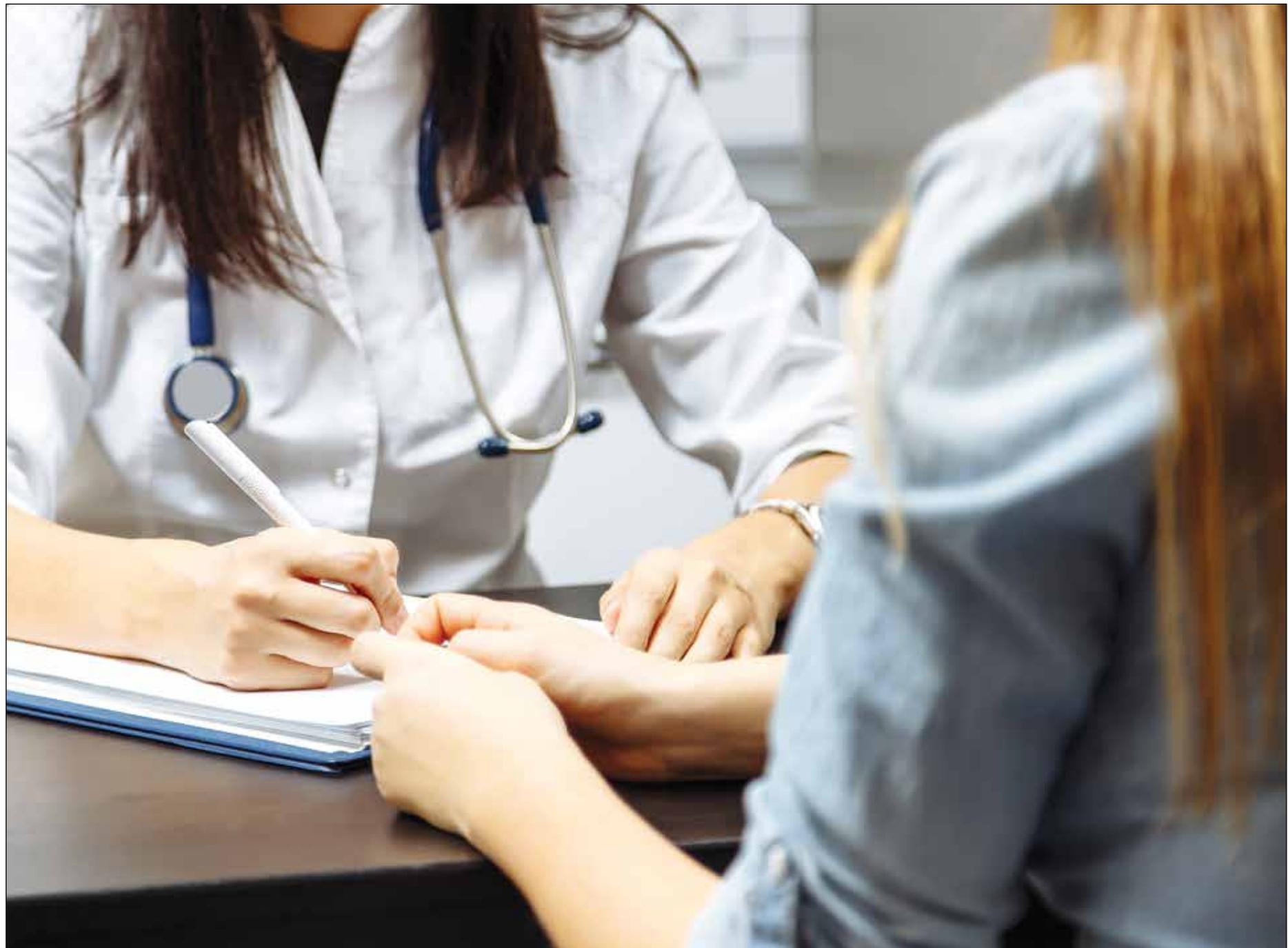
The recession-resistant industry offers numerous positions to those without prior medical experience. By obtaining an entry-level job, hard work and knowledge can help you climb the ranks and find an unexpected passion.

When searching for a new job, an excellent first step is analyzing the types of listings in your area. Check local hospital job boards, newspaper classifieds or ask friends if they are aware of openings. If the position requires some familiarity with the industry, fine-tune your resume to include your professional career or volunteering experiences.

If you're not in a rush to begin a position, consider taking online classes or attending a trade school to meet local in-demand positions' educational requirements.

## NAIL THE INTERVIEW

When interviewing for a job in health care, you will hear some common interview questions, as well as some that are specific to the field. Prepare yourself by knowing how to answer these common



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questions, as suggested by the National Healthcare Association.

**What made you interested in working here?** It's critical to be honest and show that you researched the company and its mission to guide the public to better health.

**What's your biggest strength?** Think of examples

and experiences from previous jobs and express how it has prepared you for a medical industry roles.

**How do you stay up to date with health care advancements?** Now is your chance to show that you're dedicated to furthering your knowledge within the field. Discuss continued education plans, read-

ing material and studies of interest.

## WORK YOUR WAY UP

Once you land a position in the industry, try to advance yourself and your career. Pay attention to how upper management performs and reacts to controversy in the office. It's beneficial to seek a men-

tor who can guide you through the medical field and recommend you for promotions.

Try to be a team player and role model for your long-time coworkers and incoming employees. Hiring managers notice a good personality and the drive to progress your crew's productivity.

# Medical Illustrator

If you desire to help people in the health care industry but your passion is fine arts, consider the job of medical illustrator, which involves both.

A medical illustrator's primary role is designing graphic representations of intricate body parts. The field has evolved from hand-drawn illustrations to using 3D software and digital design.

People interested in these positions should have a strong background in art, biology and human anatomy. According to the Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI), professionals are tasked with visual presentation projects that include:

- Advertising in magazines and film.
- Trade show and museum exhibits.
- Interactive infographics and health games.
- Medical simulation trainers.

Illustrators must showcase highly technical skills and an in-depth understanding of science. If this creative opportunity in health care sounds like an exciting career, check out what to expect, as reported by the AMI.

## EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The requirements from



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employers can vary depending on the responsibilities trusted to a medical illustrator. However, you can follow a few guidelines throughout your education career to strengthen your qualifications after graduation.

High school students should further their curriculum through college preparatory programs with emphasis on both art and science.

In college, fine arts and biology are necessities for preparation. Talk to your counselor about classes, including the following.

- **Art:** life drawing, painting, color theory, graphic design and computer graphics.
- **Science:** vertebrate anatomy, developmental biology, cell biology, zoology and chemistry.

Most medical illustrators

are preferred to hold a bachelor's degree with a major in art and a minor in biological sciences or a major in science with a minor in art. Experts also can become board certified to strengthen your chances of landing a role. Receiving the acknowledgment shows, you passed examinations in business practices, ethics, biomedical science and drawing skills.

## BUILD A PORTFOLIO

While in school, create a website or physical portfolio to showcase your work. A hiring manager will undoubtedly ask you for samples, including drawings, graphic designs and published content. A chronological representation of how you have grown as an artist will show your dedication and commitment to the craft.

# Great Jobs with an Associate Degree

A promising career in the health care industry doesn't always include years at a university, followed by a medical school.

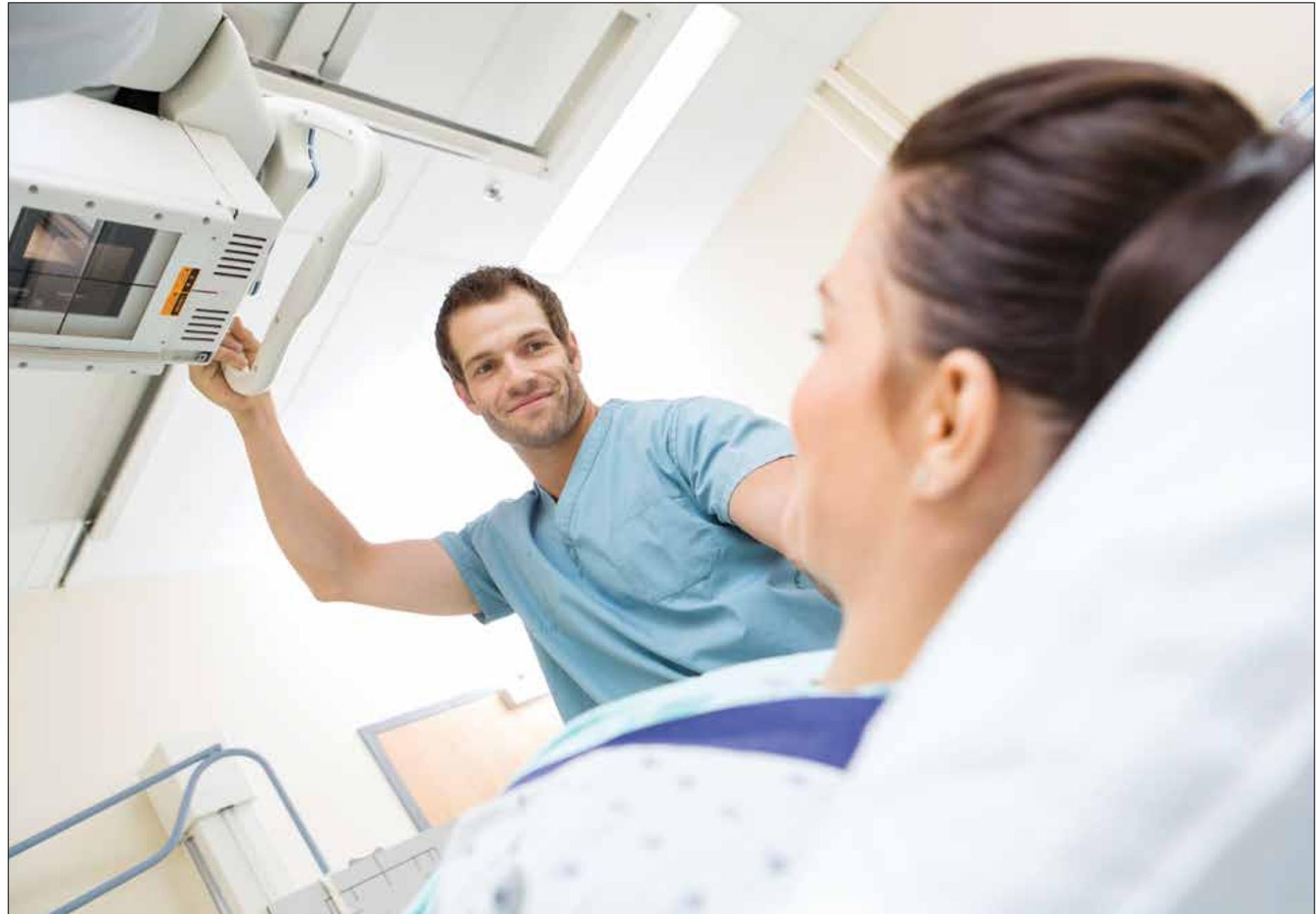
For Americans who have obtained an associate degree, numerous opportunities offer substantial salaries and the ability to assist your community.

If you don't already hold an associate degree, consider attending classes to obtain one to advance your career. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the cost for public two-year institutions is about \$10,704 annually. Avoid graduating with student loan debt by speaking to your local advisors about financial assistance.

Have a look at some of the most prosperous medical positions available for those with a two-year degree and the projected growth of the field (2019-29) from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## **RADIATION THERAPIST** **Annual Salary:** \$85,560 **Growth Outlook:** 7%

Radiation therapists work as a line of defense in the fight against cancer. Most are employed full-time by hospitals, though some are needed for physician offices and outpatient centers. Experts oper-



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ate machines like linear accelerators to deliver radiation treatment to a cancerous tumor to promote shrinkage or elimination.

## **MEDICAL SONOGRAPHER** **Annual Salary:** \$68,750 **Growth Outlook:** 12%

Medical professionals in this field use imaging equipment and sound waves to form photos of body parts.

The images are commonly known as ultrasounds and are critical in diagnosing numerous medical conditions. Experts must review images for acceptable quality, understand how to operate imaging equipment and identify abnormal results.

One must also review a patient's medical history and prepare and educate them for upcoming procedures.

## **RESPIRATORY THERAPIST**

**Annual Salary:** \$61,330  
**Growth Outlook:** 19%

This specialized therapist can find work in many facilities like hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics and sleep centers. They must hold in-depth knowledge of the body's respiratory system and treat breathing-related issues that affect the lungs.

A few of their responsibilities include:

- Intubating patients with breathing tubes.
- Monitoring breathing and other vital signs on the ventilator.
- Administering medication through mist, dry powder or other inhalers.
- Consulting with doctors on cases regarding lung-related illnesses.

# Social Media Tips for Health Workers

Social media provides an exceptional way to stay in touch with distant friends and loved ones. However, for those in the medical system, it must be used with caution.

The health care industry is a profession of trust and compassion for those seeking assistance. Be conscientious about the things you share and post to avoid breaking the law or ethics regarding your patient's privacy.

While it's great to spread important messages about health and wellness, it's crucial to do so with responsibility. Make sure your posts are thoroughly vetted for facts to avoid spreading misinformation. Not only does this put those who look to you for guidance at risk, but it can affect the way medical peers view your professionalism.

Learn how to use social media to your advantage as a health care professional, with these tips from the United States National Library of Medicine.

## **STRENGTHEN YOUR NETWORK**

There are many roles in the medical field, where professional relationships can open doors to new opportunities or provide life-saving advice for a



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sick patient. Tidy up your profile on social media websites and invite peers to join your network.

Engage in discussion regarding your field and post stories or studies that will inspire a conversation. Follow other experts and industry leaders to analyze their research and medical develop-

ments that can strengthen your performance.

## **SPEAK TO THE PUBLIC**

Social media sites make it simple to engage a broad audience about public health progress or promote better wellness. To stimulate community involvement, use marketing tactics to make your

posts relatable and appealing, so viewers take action. Be sure to motivate readers to reach health goals.

In some cases, hiring a professional social media manager can drum up the attention your page receives.

## **BE MINDFUL OF HIPPA**

The Health Insurance

Portability and Accountability Act is a federal law that protects sensitive patient health information. Failure to follow privacy guidelines can result in significant criminal penalties like fines, loss of license and a lengthy prison sentence. Be careful when discussing work with friends or families in person or on social media.

# Is a Health Care Career for You?

According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, the health care industry is projected to add more jobs — over 4 million — than any other industry between 2012 and 2022.

As one of the fastest-growing sectors in the economy, positions range from providing direct care for patients to supporting the staff in numerous facilities.

If you're considering a role in health care, it's imperative to ask yourself a few questions before applying to schools or jobs. Here are some factors to think about that are required for a rewarding and exciting career within the industry.

## HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU IN LIFELONG LEARNING?

Health care jobs are continually evolving as innovative technology changes how patients are treated, and health developments are discovered. As practitioners adjust their policies to match progressive methods, the entire staff must keep up. Even if your position doesn't include direct care for illnesses, you should be prepared to learn new ideas and processes as the job changes throughout your tenure.

## ARE YOU COMFORTABLE AROUND ILLNESS?

Those who surround themselves in medical environments must accept that they can face life-and-death situations daily. The sad reality is that some diseases or illnesses are untreatable, and you will likely be present when someone loses their life. Some experts in the field will be responsible for discussing terminal diagnoses or fatal situations



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with a lost one's family and loved ones. Do you have the demeanor to face these tragic outcomes and regain composure to perform your best for others who require your assistance?

## HOW DO YOU ENVISION YOUR FUTURE?

For some busy medical professionals, their personal life suffers from the

demands of their professional career. Long hours, demanding workloads and significant responsibilities can take a toll on your mental health and wellbeing. Some positions will also require that experts remain on-call to tend to emergencies for the day's duration.

## DO YOU WORK WELL ON A TEAM?

There is no room for selfishness in

the medical field, as decisions can be the difference in life and death. You should plan to work closely with physicians, nurses and other experts and consider their advice if you have questions about a situation. A patient's recovery and treatment can significantly benefit from how well each member of the staff performs and communicates.