



# Opportunities and challenges of new medical assistance professions

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Česká lékařská komora

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## Are there any plans in place to expand the scope of practice of other health care professionals (nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, etc.) in your country?

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- Yes
- Nurses would like to be able to perform tasks such as rehabilitation procedures and prescribe certain medical supplies (bandages, incontinence aids, etc.).
- Pharmacists would like to administer vaccines and provide counselling services for chronic diseases (diabetes, obesity, hyperlipoproteinemia, hypertension), and subsequently, dispense medicaments without a doctor's prescription.



# Are there any new health professions in your country (planned), which should assist a physician (physician assistants, specialised nurses, nurse practitioners, etc.)

- Already in 2004, an amendment to the law changed the requirements for the education of healthcare nurses, who were now required to have a bachelor's degree.
- Those who held only a high school diploma were downgraded to so-called "practical nurses," who had to work under supervision.
- The impact of this change was devastating. The shortage of healthcare nurses deepened catastrophically.
- Our healthcare system couldn't even afford to pay the high school educated nurses properly. Nurses with a university education are refusing to work in healthcare due to the offered salaries and are leaving the field.
- We do not have information about the creation of any new healthcare professions.



## What is their task and how is the training structured?

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- We do not have information about the creation of any new healthcare professions.



## Who is responsible for the curricula?

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- We do not have information about the creation of any new healthcare professions.



## Was your chamber involved in developing these new professions?

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- No
- The CMC emphasizes that physicians are the most qualified healthcare professionals, and if certain activities are being transferred to the competence of other healthcare workers, it means that less qualified professionals will be performing them.
- The CMC also insists that with the transfer of competencies, there must be a simultaneous transfer of responsibility. A physician, as the leader of the healthcare team, cannot bear responsibility for the work of their team members if not informed properly about their work and without having the last word in decision-making.