

Direct Patient Care VS Healthcare Experience:

Healthcare Experience (HCE)

Involves working in a healthcare setting without directly participating (performing) in patient examination, treatment, or procedures. These roles build general healthcare knowledge but do not involve physically assessing or treating patients.

Examples of HCE roles:

- Medical scribe
- Medical receptionist/unit clerk
- Hospital transporter
- Pharmacy technician
- Phlebotomist
- Health educator
- “Technicians” [i.e. surgery, physical therapy, behavioral]
- Caregiver
- Aide [hospice, home health]
- Dental assistant
- Chiropractor Assistant

Direct Patient Care (DPC)

Involves actively participating in patient examination, treatment, or procedures. These roles typically include physical interaction with the patient—taking vitals, performing tests, assisting in procedures—which is critical to developing clinical judgment.

Examples of DPC roles:

- Certified nursing assistant (CNA) or patient care technician
- Medical assistant (clinical)
- EMT/Paramedic
- ER tech
- PT/OT Assistant (with hands-on care)
- LPN or RN
- Ophthalmology Technician
- Respiratory Therapist
- SLP: Speech, Language Pathologist
- Midwife