**Unit 1 : The Hospital Team**

**Background :**

**- Hospital team members don't have equal status, but function within a complicated system of ranks and grades.**

**-The basic hospital chain of command remains unchanged. In British hospitals, for example, it is the consultant -a doctor- whose name appears on patients’ notes and who carries ultimate responsibility. Next in the line is the registrar, then \*senior house officers, and then \*house officer.**

**- In the UK, Primary care (the first contact with the medical team)** is often provided by **general practitioners** (doctors working out in the community) and by nurses called **health visitor**.

**- Recovery care and corrective treatments'** members are professionals with special expertise such as **physiotherapists, occupational therapists,** and **speech therapist**.

- Hospitals also employ **dentists, pharmacists, opticians, laboratory technicians, receptionists, administrative staff.**

- The whole structure is kept going by the ancillary staff - **the porters, cleaners, & kitchen staff**- who are supported by **volunteers.**

\* **Senior house officer** (**SHO**)**:** is a [junior doctor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Junior_doctor) undergoing training within a certain specialty in the [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) [National Health Service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Health_Service) or in the [Republic of Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Ireland).

**\* House officer (HO):** A resident physician and surgeon of a hospital (the "house") who is receives further training, usually in a medical or surgical specialty, while caring for patients under the direction of the attending staff.