

Hospital and its Organization

Definition of a Hospital

Definition of a Hospital

- A hospital is a healthcare institution that provides treatment with specialized staff and equipment.
- It primarily delivers acute care services to patients who require urgent attention for a short period of time.



WHO Definition of a Hospital:

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a hospital is "a residential establishment which provides short-term and long-term medical care consisting of observational, diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative services for sick or injured people."

Purpose of a Hospital:

- **Patient Care:** Deliver comprehensive medical and surgical care.
- **Education:** Train health care professionals, including doctors, nurses, and allied health workers.
- **Research:** Conduct clinical and medical research to advance medical knowledge.
- **Public Health:** Participate in health promotion, disease prevention, and community outreach programs.

Classification of Hospitals Based on the Level of Services

- The classification of hospitals by service level indicates the types of medical services available, the complexity of medical equipment, and the expertise and specialties of the staff, including pharmacists.



1. Primary Hospitals

- **Definition:** Basic-level hospitals, often known as first-level or community hospitals.
- **Services:** Mainly offer preventive services, outpatient care, and basic inpatient care. Additional services might include maternal and childcare, vaccinations, and basic surgical and medical procedures.
- **Beds:** Typically, fewer than 100 beds, though this can vary based on the region.
- **Pharmacy Practice:** Pharmacists in primary hospitals focus on dispensing medications, providing medication counseling, and ensuring a continuous supply of essential drugs.

2. Secondary Hospitals

- **Definition:** Also known as district or provincial hospitals; usually larger than primary hospitals and capable of offering specialized care.
- **Services:** Provide specialized services, often in fields like internal medicine, pediatrics, general surgery, and obstetrics. Support services, including laboratory, imaging, and pharmacy, are also available.
- **Beds:** Generally, these hospitals have between 100 to 500 beds, though the range may differ regionally.
- **Pharmacy Practice:** Pharmacists play a vital role in drug management, working closely with medical staff to ensure appropriate drug therapy. They may be involved in therapeutic drug monitoring and clinical interventions.

3. Tertiary Hospitals

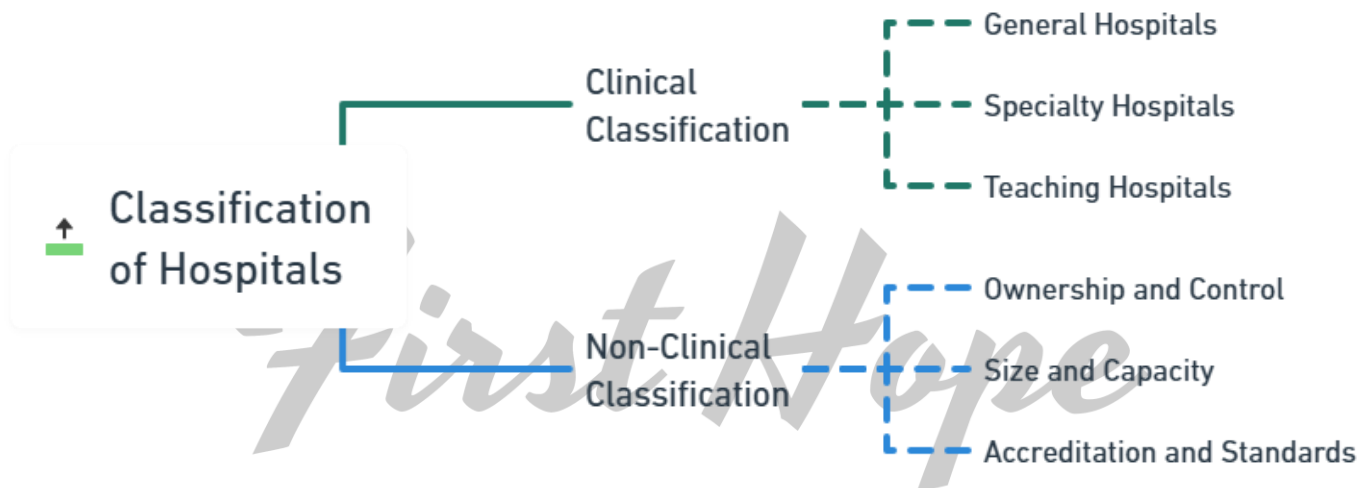
- **Definition:** Referral or teaching hospitals that provide specialized and super-specialized services.
- **Services:** Equipped with advanced diagnostic services, intensive care units, and highly specialized departments, such as cardiology, neurology, and oncology.
- **Beds:** Typically, have more than 500 beds, with some major tertiary hospitals in urban areas or serving large populations having even higher bed counts.
- **Pharmacy Practice:** Pharmacists in tertiary hospitals often hold specialized roles. Clinical pharmacists may work in specific departments, collaborating with doctors for optimal patient care. They may also participate in research and clinical trials.

Hospital Level	Definition	Services	Beds	Pharmacy Practice
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Primary Hospitals	Basic, community-focused care	Preventive, outpatient, basic inpatient	< 100 beds	Dispensing, counseling, essential supply
Secondary Hospitals	District/provincial with specialties	Specialized care, support services	100-500 beds	Drug management, monitoring, interventions
Tertiary Hospitals	Referral with advanced specialization	Intensive, specialized departments	> 500 beds	Specialized roles, research, trials

Classification Based on Clinical and Non-Clinical Basis

Hospitals can also be categorized based on clinical services and non-clinical characteristics.



Clinical Classification:

1. General Hospitals:

- Offer a wide range of services for various health conditions
- Provide both medical and surgical care
- Serve patients of all ages and genders

2. Specialty Hospitals:

- Focus on specific areas of health care
- Examples include:
 - **Children's Hospitals:** Specialize in pediatric care
 - **Cancer Hospitals:** Focus on oncology services
 - **Psychiatric Hospitals:** Provide mental health services
 - **Rehabilitation Hospitals:** Offer post-acute care and therapy

3. Teaching Hospitals:



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