

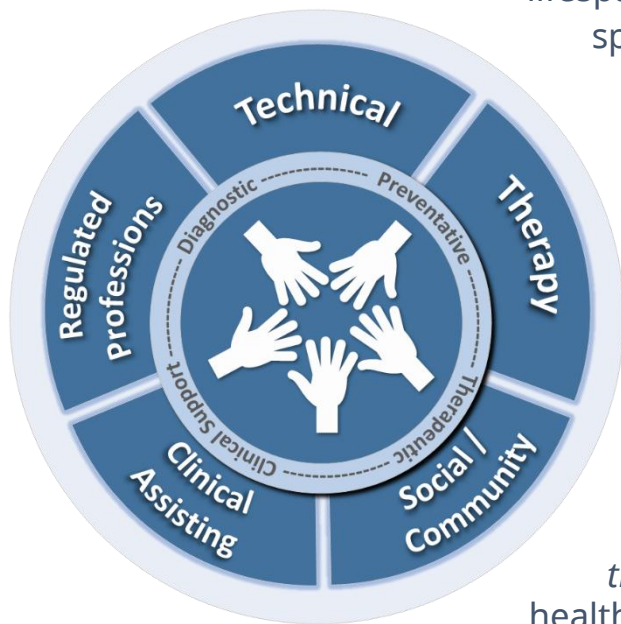


# Allied Health Policy Secretariat

Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services Division

## Provincial Allied Health Definition

The allied health workforce provides a range of preventative, diagnostic, technical, and therapeutic health care and clinical support services across the lifespan and care continuum. They contribute specialized expertise, education, research, and leadership, often working as integral members of a collaborative health care team to improve the health and well being of British Columbians.



There are over 70 allied health disciplines comprised of **technical, therapy, social/community, and clinical assisting occupations\*** and **regulated professions** (\*adapted from the 2021 [NOC System](#)). Members of the allied health workforce deliver, support, or inform

direct patient care and have completed occupation-specific education or training.

Allied health does not include medical and nursing-related occupations, such as physicians, dentists, health care assistants, midwives, nurse practitioners, and nurses.

**About the allied health definition:** *With no universal definition of allied health, the Ministry seeks to provide clarity for the purpose of developing health system policies, programs, and initiatives that impact the diverse range of allied health providers to meet patient and population health outcomes. We recognize the need to be flexible, inclusive, and responsive to the evolving nature of the health workforce. The provincial definition of allied health therefore provides a home for many occupations that could fall under the collective allied health umbrella. It is meant as a guide and common language that we can use with our health system partners to support allied health service delivery and health human resource policy development.*

## Examples of Allied Health Occupations (not exhaustive)

### Regulated Professions

*Regulated professions under the Health Professions Act\*, the Emergency Health Services Act<sup>§</sup>, and the Social Workers Act<sup>†</sup>*

- Acupuncturist\*
- Audiologist\*
- Chiropractor\*
- Dental hygienist\*
- Dental technician\*
- Denturist\*
- Dietitian\*
- Emergency medical responder<sup>§</sup>
- Fire first responder<sup>§</sup>
- Hearing instrument practitioner\*
- Massage therapist\*
- Naturopathic physician\*
- Occupational therapist\*
- Optician\*
- Optometrist\*
- Paramedic<sup>§</sup>
- Pharmacist\*
- Physiotherapist\*
- Psychologist\*
- Registered social worker<sup>†</sup>
- Speech language pathologist\*
- Traditional Chinese medicine practitioner\*

### Clinical Assistants

*Assisting occupations in support of health services*

- Activity assistant/worker
- Certified dental assistant
- Medical laboratory assistant
- Pharmacy assistant
- Recreation therapy assistant
- Rehabilitation assistant

### Technical

*Technical occupations in health*

- Anesthesia assistant
- Dental therapist
- Diagnostic medical sonographer
- Medical laboratory technologist\*\*
- Medical radiation technologist
  - Magnetic resonance technologist
  - Nuclear medicine technologist
  - Radiation therapist\*\*
  - Radiological technologist
- Perfusionist\*\*
- Pharmacy technician
- Respiratory therapist\*\*

**\*\* To be regulated under the health profession regulatory framework modernization**

### Social/Community

*Counselling and mental health occupations and related specialized therapists*

- Art therapist
- Behavioral consultant
- Child life specialist
- Clinical counsellor
- Clinical ethicist
- Genetic counsellor
- Music therapist
- Spiritual health professional

### Therapy

*Therapy and assessment occupations*

- Clinical exercise physiologist
- Kinesiologist
- Recreation therapist