

# Technology and Informatics Roles

THE CLINICIAN REFERENCE GUIDE



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# IT AND INFORMATICS

I am a self-professed technology geek, but I didn't start that way. I was a nurse and then I realized, you don't have to be a technology expert to take advantage of the vast opportunities available in healthcare technology. Whether you are just getting started or you're an experienced informatics professional, **new roles emerge every day** in the intersection of healthcare and technology.



Besides this personal introduction to healthcare IT, let's start with a definition. I favor the definition from a prior employer. IBM defines healthcare technology as **“any technology, including medical devices, IT systems, algorithms, artificial intelligence (AI), cloud and blockchain, designed to support healthcare organizations.”**

What is healthcare technology? IBM. (n.d.).  
<https://www.ibm.com/topics/healthcare-technology>

*Do NOT hesitate to pursue a healthcare technology role. It will open many new opportunities - often with remote and hybrid work environments.*

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# DAY IN THE LIFE

You might be documenting clinical workflows, such as an ED triage process or a pediatric discharge practice. You might be validating the documentation template for a Medicare Wellness visit. You might be helping a marketing team understand a technology product's value for clinicians or guide a non-clinical sales team's approach to selling to a physician. You might validate a report for a quality measure or assist an analytics team to align data to improve a clinical process.

The day in the life of a healthcare technology role varies greatly based on your clinical experience, the role focus and even the organization type. Employment opportunities exist in hospitals, clinics, technology vendors, consulting and insurance companies. You can even be an independent contractor (or solopreneur). And if a clinician, since we all use EMRs, you are already a SME - subject matter expert in technology!



# DAY IN THE LIFE - EMERGING

The most exciting aspects of healthcare technology are the **emerging fields**.

From virtual reality enabled patient education to virtual nursing to digital therapeutics in behavioral health, there are so many new opportunities. If you are hesitant to embrace AI (artificial intelligence), realize that AI will not replace all healthcare jobs. It's just not possible. There are too many patients for the number of healthcare professionals and that delta is growing every year. We must find ways for AI to support clinicians, make their lives easier and be there for our patients when we can't be.

You can embrace roles that will validate how AI assists and when the human touch is non-negotiable. The expanding roles in AI that are emerging for clinicians, mean job security for decades. Finding the first steps into these roles is as simple as realigning your resume and profile. By embracing how you can help today, you will stay ahead on the emerging technologies in the years to come and your career will grow with these trends.



*"From understanding the basics of healthcare technology and the associated roles, to finding YOUR best next job, you must network."*

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## KEY TERMS

**Healthcare, clinical, and medical informatics** are all terms referring to the interdisciplinary field that focuses on the effective use of information technology and information management to improve healthcare outcomes, patient care, processes and healthcare system efficiency.

**Data analytics** refers to the predictive modeling and analytic techniques applied to vast amounts of healthcare data (big data) to find meaningful insights in healthcare delivery and outcomes.

## Abbreviations

**HCI&A** – healthcare informatics and analytics

**HIM** – health information management

**HIS** – healthcare information system

**HIT** – healthcare information technology

**IoMT** - Internet of Medical Things

**IS** – information system

## COMMON ROLES

**If you want to stay clinical, consider:** Clinical Data Analyst/Healthcare Data Analyst, Telemedicine Coordinator or Chief Nurse Informatics Officer (CNIO).

**If you like operations and processes, consider:** Performance Improvement Analyst, Healthcare IT Project Manager or Health Informatics Manager.

**If you like financials and community health, consider:** Value-based Care Consultant, Population Health Management or Social Determinants of Health Specialist.

## Additional Considerations

There are MANY more roles in IT to explore. To understand the education, experience and rational bridge from one role to the next, starting with entry-level, contact [info@POMwomen.com](mailto:info@POMwomen.com).

# GENERAL EDUCATION & SKILLS

So, how do you transition into one of these roles?

**Formal degree** - If you love school, consider a college degree in Computer Science or Information Systems, Master of Nursing Informatics (MNI) or Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management (BSHIM).

**Certifications** - If you don't have the time or money for a formal degree, consider obtaining a certification such as, Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CPHIMS) or Certified Associate in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CAHIMS)

**Learn on the job** - This is my favorite! If you don't have the time or circumstances to obtain a degree or certification, consider volunteering for all EMR-related training support for your current employer. Get to know your company's IT support teams. Align your resume to the tech aspects of your role (everyone has these, but are not aware of how to detail them in a resume) and then apply!



**For more information on how to land a role in IT, email [info@POMwomen.com](mailto:info@POMwomen.com) and ask for more role details, next steps or resume alignment help.**