

3. Advanced practice nurses (most of whom are also registered nurses) hold postgraduate degrees in specialized nursing fields. They now enjoy autonomy, status, and public respect similar to that of many other professionals.
4. Initially, nurse-midwives posed little threat to organized medicine because almost all served in poor, rural areas where few doctors wanted to work. Now, nurse-midwives legally can write prescriptions and bill insurers for their services, but changes in insurance costs and regulations have made it impossible for them to work on their own.
5. Although pharmacy is a profession, pharmacists' autonomy is hampered by medical dominance and by the corporatization of pharmacy work. To increase their autonomy and power and reprofessionalize, pharmacists have promoted clinical pharmacy. Managed care also has increased pharmacists' status by involving pharmacists in utilization review, disease management, and the development of practice protocols and formularies.
6. Osteopathy has achieved professional status almost equal to medicine by adopting beliefs and practices almost identical to that of medical doctors. As a result, osteopathy's independent identity has been threatened. In contrast, chiropractors have retained their unique identity and gained occupational status by increasing educational standards and remaining limited practitioners, although some chiropractors continue to seek a wider role in health care.
7. Alternative or complementary therapies are therapies that are neither widely used by doctors nor typically taught in medical schools even if they sometimes are covered by health insurance. Little is known about the effectiveness of these therapies. Interest in alternative healing is growing not only among American consumers but also among allopathic doctors.
8. Before the nineteenth century, direct-entry midwives delivered almost all American babies. Direct-entry midwives lost this status because of growing public belief in science, competition from doctors, their low status as women, and the lack of strict licensing and educational requirements. Direct-entry midwifery has reappeared in response to dissatisfaction with medicalized childbirth, but it remains a marginalized occupation with very few clients despite evidence of its safety.
9. Curanderos are folk healers with no legal standing and no formal training who function within Mexican and Mexican American communities. They recognize both Western and non-Western categories of disease and treat illness holistically.
10. Acupuncturists believe that illness is caused when the body's *chi*, best translated as "vital life force," becomes unbalanced or blocked. Western doctors have tried to limit the use of acupuncture by controlling its definition, study, and use. Use of acupuncture and insurance reimbursement for it are growing, as is evidence that it is effective for certain conditions.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How did the early history of nursing make it difficult for nurses to increase their status or improve their working conditions?
2. How have nurses attempted to professionalize? What factors have limited their success?
3. How have changes in the health care system affected nurses' occupational status and position?
4. What factors have led to the development of clinical pharmacy and disease management? What factors have restrained their growth, or could do so in future?
5. How did osteopaths attempt to professionalize? What factors enabled them to succeed? What price has osteopathy paid for its success?
6. To what extent and in what ways have chiropractors succeeded in improving their occupational status?
7. How and why did doctors gain control over childbirth?
8. What factors led to the growth of direct-entry midwifery?
9. How do individuals become curanderos? How does medical dominance affect their work and their lives?
10. How have doctors attempted to control acupuncture? What factors have helped or hindered them in this attempt?

CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

1. The term *doula* refers to a woman (there are no men) who provides physical, emotional, and educational support to pregnant women during labor and delivery. There are no national standards for certification for this new health care occupation. Compare doulas with nurses and explain why you think doulas will or will not find it difficult to achieve professional status.
2. Assume that ten years from now all registered nurses will have bachelors degrees. Identify and explain one reason why you think this will change the status of nursing as an occupation and one reason why it will not change the occupation's status.
3. How are alternative healers affected by medical dominance?