Nursing grades
Nurses working in a hospital have the following grades:

student nurse	a nurse who is still in training
staff nurse	a nurse who has completed the training course
charge nurse	a more experienced nurse who is **in charge of**, or responsible for, a ward or department
nurse manager	a nurse who is in charge of several wards

Note: The old term of **sister** is still sometimes used for a female charge nurse. A female nurse manager may be called **matron**.

For example : Dr. James is talking to Sister Watkins.

Support Workers
The **clinical support worker**, who has done a short course and obtained basic qualifications, and the **nursing auxilia**ry, who is usually unqualified, both assist nursing staff. There may also be **ward clerks**, whose duties include making sure patients' notes and information are up to date, and answering the telephone.

Specialization
Like doctors, nurses can specialize:
- A **midwife** has specialized from the beginning by doing a course in midwifery, the management of pregnancy and birth.
- **District nurses** visit patients in their homes.
- **Heath visitors** also work in the community, giving advice on the promotion of health and the prevention of illness.

The nurse's role
The nurse's role has changed considerably in recent years. In addition to **general patient care**, **checking temperatures**, **pulse rates** and **blood pressures**, **changing dressings**, **giving injections** and **removing sutures**, nurses now do some of the things previously reserved for doctors, such as **prescribing drugs**, and **ordering laboratory tests**. More responsibility for nurses is planned, as the following article demonstrates.

Nurses carry out surgery in effort to cut patient waiting lists
Nurses in Scotland trained to **perform** minor surgery have entered the operating theatre for the first time in an effort to cut patient waiting times. Five nurses who have passed a new course at Glasgow Caledonian University are now qualified to **carry out** such **procedures** as the removal of small lesions, benign moles and cysts.

The Scotsman

The verbs **perform** and **carry out** are used with all types of procedures. They are often used in the passive form.

perform carry out	an examination an operation a procedure an experiment a test a biopsy	

The procedure was	performed carried out	by a nurse.

Complete the sentences.
1 Someone who specializes in delivering babies is a _____.
2 Someone who is qualified to assist nurses is a _____.
3 Someone who is not qualified but is able to assist nurses is a _____.
4 A nurse who has qualified is a _____ nurse.
5 A nurse who specializes in health promotion is a _____.
6 A nurse who looks after a ward is a _____ nurse.
7 A nurse who works in the community is a _____ nurse.
8 Someone who answers a ward telephone is a _____ _____.

Make word combinations using a word or phrase from each box.

carry out change check give remove

sutures a procedure an injection a dressing the temperature

Complete the sentences with the correct grammatical form of *perform.*

1 An isotope brain scan is painless and easy _____.
2 Biopsy of the pancreas _____ last March.
3 If the patient's condition deteriorates, a laparotomy should _____.
4 If a diagnosis of meningitis is suspected a lumbar puncture must _____.
5 Last year we _____ a randomized, double blind group study.

Complete the sentences with the correct grammatical form of *carry out.*
1 I now intend _____ a larger study.
2 Unfortunately few properly controlled trials _____ so far.
3 A number of studies _____ recently to look at this question.
4 A right hemicolectomy _____ and the patient made a full recovery.

5 This procedure can _____ in the emergency department.

Express your idea

What kind of tasks do nurses carry out in your country? Are nurses' responsibilities increasing? What are the implications of this?