





- Describe the pictures. What kind of health care or issue does each one show?
- What are the differences between the pictures?
- Have you or anybody you know ever had a similar experience to those in the pictures? Talk about it.

TOPIC CARD

A RIGHT TO HEALTH?

DISCUSSION

Is health care a human right or should access to health care change depending on your lifestyle, medical history, age, wealth and so on? In what ways?

What do you know about health care in the US, UK and other English-speaking countries? How is it the same as or different from the country where you live?

When someone needs health care in your country, what process do they go through? Does everyone get the same level of care?

How do you think the healthcare system in your country could be improved?

Have you ever had to access health care while away from home or out of the country? What was the process?

JUST IMAGINE

Imagine that you or your friend would like to work as a doctor or nurse. Talk through what you know about what's involved in the job, the pros and cons of the work and what is required to get such a job. Most importantly, identify what you don't know, and plan specifically how you could find out about it.

QUOTES

> *"The right to health for all people means that everyone should have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them."*
>
> **The World Health Organisation**

> *"Too many people now see health care as a human right rather than as something to be bought and sold. This is a dangerous philosophy."*
>
> **Julie Borowski,** libertarian YouTuber

> *"Those who are not opting to lead active, healthy lifestyles should be held accountable for depriving or delaying treatment for other, more deserving, cases."*
>
> **Geeta Sidhu-Robb,** businesswoman

WORD BANK

hospital / clinic / medical centre / operating theatre / GP (= general practitioner) / specialist / consultant (= senior doctor) / paramedic / paediatrician / OB-GYN (= obstetrician-gynaecologist, obstetrics and gynaecology department) / ENT (= ear, nose and throat) / NHS (= National Health Service; UK) / Medicare (US) / health insurance, medical insurance / emergency medical care / referral, to get referred [to a specialist, etc.] / blood test / scan / X-ray / CT scan (= computerized tomography) / MRI (= magnetic resonance imaging) / thermometer / injection, shot, jab / tablets, pills / lozenges / drops / symptoms / diagnosis, to diagnose / treatment, to treat / remedy / cure / recovery, to recover / to get better, get well / alternative medicine / herbal medicine / prescription drug, prescription medicine / over-the-counter remedy / private health care / public health care / privatisation

WATCH OUT!

False friends and common mistakes

- An **ambulance** is an emergency care vehicle; the hospital department for emergencies is called **ER** (= Emergency Room) in *AmE* and **A&E** (= Accident and Emergency) or **Casualty** in *BrE*.
- **Nurse**, **doctor**, etc. are all gender neutral. A female nurse is not referred to as a sister.
- **Surgery** or **operation** is a medical procedure, usually performed by a **surgeon** in an **operating theatre**. *BrE* also uses **doctor's surgery** to mean a **clinic** or **medical centre** where you can visit a **GP** (= general practitioner).
- A doctor's order for medication is a **prescription** or (esp. in *AmE*) a **script**, not a recipe or receipt.
- The word **drug** is very commonly used for all pharmaceutical medicines as well as banned substances.