

Physician's Assistant

Physician assistants, also known as PAs, practice medicine under the direction and supervision of physicians and surgeons. They are formally trained to examine patients, diagnose injuries and illnesses, and provide treatment.

Physician assistants typically do the following:

- Work under the supervision of a physician or surgeon
- Review patients' medical histories
- Do physical exams to check patients' health
- Order and interpret diagnostic tests, such as x rays or blood tests
- Make preliminary diagnoses concerning a patient's injury or illness
- Provide treatment, such as setting broken bones and giving immunizations
- Counsel patients and their families; for example, answering questions about how to care for a child with asthma
- Prescribe medicine, when needed
- Record a patient's progress
- Complete insurance paperwork

Physician assistants are different from medical assistants. Medical assistants do routine clinical and clerical tasks; they do not practice medicine.

Physician assistants work in all areas of medicine, including primary care and family medicine, emergency medicine, and psychiatry. The work of physician assistants depends in large part on their specialty and what their supervising physician needs them to do. For more information, see the profile on physicians and surgeons.

For example, a physician assistant working in surgery may close incisions and provide care before and after the operation. A physician assistant working in pediatrics may examine a child or give routine vaccinations. In rural areas and inner cities, physician assistants may be the primary care providers at clinics where a physician is present only 1 or 2 days per week. In these locations, physician assistants confer with the physician and other healthcare workers as needed and as required by law.

Some physician assistants make house calls or visit nursing homes to treat patients, reporting back to the physician afterward. Some physician assistants supervise medical technicians and medical assistants.

Career Outlook:

Career Outlook data is specific to New Hampshire State.

55% of jobs

2019 projected jobs

2020%

Total Annual

Openings:

~~566 02/24/2014~~

~~Wage~~

Education Requirements:

Programs:

~~School~~ Pierce University [1]

~~Program~~ Graduate Studies [2]

License and Certification Requirements:

Education

Levels:

Required:

~~Requirements~~ Graduate Education of Physician Assistant (NCCPA) or pass the

~~Requirements~~ National Registered Supervisory (PHSICIA) accepting responsibility;

~~Requirements~~ graduate from a Physician Assistant program; be certified by the National Commission on

Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA); work under the supervision of a licensed

physician, and submit a notarized criminal history record release form along with a

complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency or authorized

employee of the Department of Safety.

~~Requirements~~ Public or Private Company

Support Role

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Links

[1] <http://www.franklinpierce.edu/>

[2]

http://www.franklinpierce.edu/academics/gradstudies/programs_of_study/master_physician_assistant.htm

[3] <http://www.nccpa.net/>