

THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

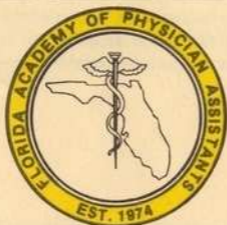
The Physician/Physician Assistant Team Means:

The capabilities of your physician are extended

Your physician is able to spend more time with the seriously ill patient

There can be an increased number of patients served

The possibility of reduced office and clinic waiting time.



Need For The Physician Assistant

There are few or no physicians in many areas of the United States.

Physician Assistants (referred to as P.A.'s) are making health care services more available in many of these areas.

The physicians time is limited.

The P.A. extends his physician employer's health care capabilities, broadening and strengthening the quality of patient care.

As a direct extension of the physician the P.A. can evaluate patient complaints and expedite physician attention to the more urgent and complex patient problems.

Physician Assistant Training and Certification

Physician Assistant Programs are developed under the guidelines of the American Medical Association.

Training is comprehensive with specific subjects and courses qualifying the graduates to perform tasks and procedures necessary in organizing the history and physical examination information and utilizing this in patient management.

The P.A. works with a physician upon graduation. After passing the National Certification Examination, the P.A. and his physician employer must meet the Medical or Osteopathic Practice Acts' provisions and be approved by the appropriate State Board of Examiners.

The P.A. must meet mandatory requirements for continuing medical education in order to maintain certification.

Physician Assistant Tasks

As an assistant to your physician some of the most frequent duties of the P.A. are:

Performing your history and physical examination, recording pertinent information in your chart, ordering laboratory and x-ray studies, family planning, counseling you and your family.

Tasks vary depending on the type of physician's practice, the guidelines for the P.A., and the individual situation.

Other tasks may include:

1. Making hospital rounds with the physician
2. Assisting in an emergency situation
3. Assisting in surgery
4. Special tests and diagnostic procedures
5. Suturing and removing sutures
6. Treating wounds
7. Changing dressings
8. Applying and removing casts
9. Performing cardiograms (EKG's)
10. Starting an intravenous line (IV's) for necessary treatment
11. Drawing arterial or venous blood

Information About The Physician Assistant

The P.A. is not now, nor will he ever be, a replacement for your physician.

This certified, highly skilled professional is a direct extension of your physician.

An important member of the health care team, the P.A. does not replace the nurse, technician or other vital members of that team.

P.A.'s must at all times function within guidelines set by your physician.

The primary goal of the P.A. is always to provide you with the best possible care.

Seeing the P.A. does not mean that your physician will not be seeing you.

Physician Assistant Endorsements

1. American Medical Association
2. American Academy of Family Physicians
3. American College of Surgeons
4. Association of American Medical Colleges
5. National Board of Medical Examiners
6. Florida Medical Association
7. Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
8. Florida Academy of Family Physicians
9. Florida State Board of Medical Examiners

Advantages To Your Physician

Your physician has time to manage more urgent patient problems.

Your physician has increased time for continuing medical education and for his family.

Physicians in Florida with P.A.'s have indicated an overall improvement in the quality of their lives.

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If you have further questions or need additional information,

CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN...

YOUR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT...

OR

Write

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