




Publications

The Academy publishes a quarterly journal entitled *The PA Journal—A Journal for New Health Practitioners*. The cost of the journal is included in the charge for annual dues.



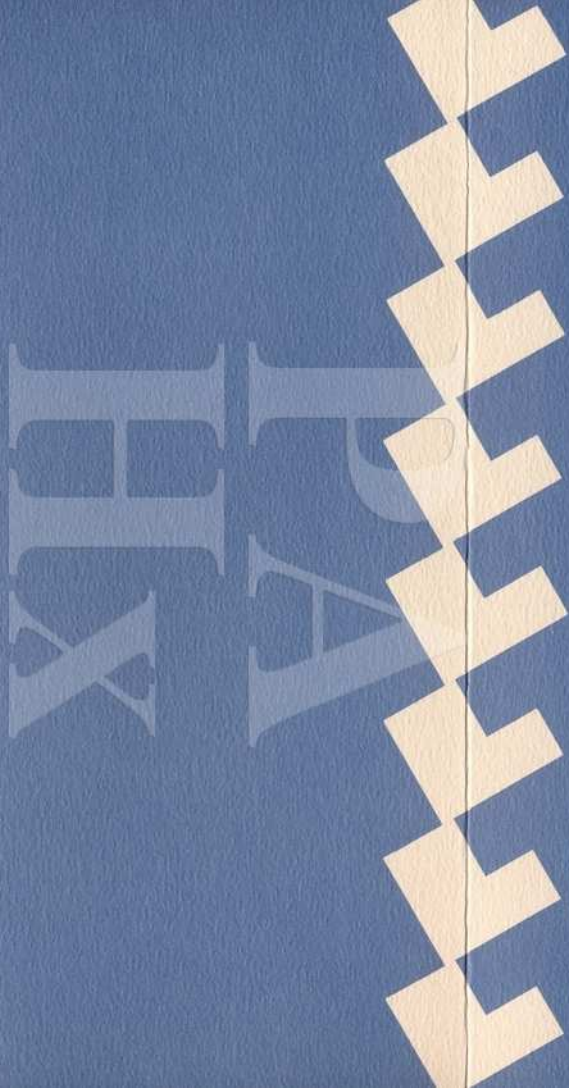
For Information

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Journal Subscription

The PA Journal
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American Academy of Physician's Assistants

The American Academy of Physician's Assistants, as established is designed to represent the graduates of and students in programs preparing the Physician's Assistant.

Definition

Initially the term "Physician's Assistant" was felt to apply to anyone rendering assistance to the physician. Because of a growing concern over the ambiguity of the term, the National Academy of Sciences fashioned three general descriptions covering all physician's assistants. Officially, the American Medical Association defines the Physician's Assistant as "a skilled person qualified by academic and practical on-the-job training to provide services under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician who is responsible for the performance of that assistant."

Educational Preparation

The educational programs to prepare the assistant are structured around a curriculum that provides in-depth basic medical science and clinical instruction. Specifically, physician's assistants are taught to elicit detailed patient histories, perform comprehensive physical examinations, and collect and interpret data from a variety of diagnostic/laboratory studies. In addition, the assistant learns to provide a variety of patient care services.

Professional Role

In the clinical and hospital setting physician's assistants take patient histories, perform physical examinations, request and carry out numerous laboratory and diagnostic procedures, collect and screen laboratory data, prepare narrative case summaries, and instruct patients as to the regimen prescribed by the physician. The proper utilization of the provided services can enable a physician's practice to function in a more efficient and effective manner.

Academy Objectives

1. To encourage its membership to render quality service to the medical profession and the public.
2. To promote the Physician's Assistant concept through information dissemination.
3. To develop, sponsor and evaluate continuing educational requirements for the graduate Physician's Assistant.
4. To assist in the development of role definition for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician.
5. To assist with the coordination and standardization of curricula for Physician's Assistant programs (but not to impede or hinder the use of innovative methods in training non-physician manpower).
6. To assist the National Board of Medical Examiners in the development of criteria leading to certification of the Physician's Assistant.
7. To assist the American Medical Association in the process for accreditation of programs preparing the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician.
8. To develop and coordinate studies regarding the patterns for utilization of the Physician's Assistant.
9. To establish and maintain a registry of its membership and a central register of employment offers for graduate assistants.
10. To provide benefit packages to the Academy membership such as insurance.
11. To associate with organizations representing both medicine and surgery as well as the allied health professions.
12. To coordinate Academy activities closely with organized medicine, the Association of Physician Assistant Programs, and the American Registry of Physician's Associates.

Membership

There are two classifications of membership within the Academy: fellow member and student member. Admission as a fellow member requires that the assistant be a graduate of an AMA approved educational program preparing the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician and/or certification through examination by the National Board of Medical Examiners. Those persons enrolled in a Physician's Assistant Program qualify for admission as a student member in an affiliated student chapter of the Academy.

Fees

Membership is managed on a calendar year basis. In addition to annual dues, each new member incurs a \$5.00 application fee. Membership rates are as follows:

student - \$12.00 per annum
fellow - \$30.00 per annum

Continuing Education

It is apparent from several nationally accepted reports that post graduate medical education on a recurring basis is essential to the acquisition of new knowledge and skills. In addition, the process of continuing medical education can provide the adaptive abilities essential to the continued provision of quality health care services. In addressing itself to these points, the Academy has formulated a program of Continuing Medical Education for its membership to coincide with evolving guidelines for graduate recertification. Briefly, each member would be required to accrue 150 hours of continuing education credit over a 3 year period. Such credits could be earned through formal education, clinically oriented research, courses for continuing medical education, student instruction in the health professions, publication of data, exhibit presentations and attendance at scientific meetings and assemblies.

Student Societies

As a reflection of student interest in the concept and the Academy, most programs for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician have developed student societies. In general, a group of organized students petition the Academy for recognition. Following review and approval by the Academy, the student group receives a charter. Members of these societies are then considered student members of the AAPA and eligible to participate in most functions of the organization. In addition, the various societies are responsible for electing a student member to the Board of Directors of the Academy with full voting privileges.

Certification

The Academy is presently participating with the American Medical Association and the National Board of Medical Examiners in the development of a certification examination and members of its profession will be involved in the accreditation of educational programs preparing the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician. It is this representation and participation that will shape the future of the profession.