



## AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

535 NORTH DEARBORN STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610 • PHONE (312) 527-1500 • TWX 910-221-0300

DIVISION OF  
MEDICAL PRACTICE

DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH MANPOWER

DONALD F. FOY  
Director

### INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

January - 1972

#### CURRENT STATUS OF THE "PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT"

The variety of names used to identify graduates of experimental educational programs for new assistants to the physician partially illustrates the diversity in this field: Clinical Associate, Medex, Child Health Associate, Physician's Assistant, Community Health Medic, and Medical Services Assistant to name but a few. These and other programs listed in this bulletin vary in their length of training and their requirements for entrance; some programs are designed to utilize the background of former military corpsmen and some recruit people with various backgrounds in the health field. Still other programs, not listed here, but often included in references to the "physician's assistant" concept, are designed to offer additional training to the nurse. These diverse efforts begun by various educational institutions are producing many different kinds of "physician's assistants" to function at different levels of responsibility across a wide range of medical fields.

The American Medical Association strongly supports the concept of innovation and experimentation in utilizing health manpower. However, as the principal agency responsible for accreditation of allied medical education, it is one of the AMA's primary responsibilities to identify the need for additional categories of health manpower: specifically, what new tasks should be performed in a new occupation, and to what extent new categories of health personnel will be employed and accepted.

The AMA Board of Trustees and its Council on Health Manpower have recommended the following as a working definition of the term "physician's assistant" or any other term that indicates a new health occupation with qualifications other than those of a licensed physician working in the capacity of an assistant to such a physician: "The physician's assistant is a skilled person qualified by academic and practical training to provide patient services under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician who is responsible for the performance of that assistant." Moreover, there is strong preference within organized medicine for use of the term "physician's assistant" as opposed to "physician's associate", since use of the latter term commonly implies another physician and is therefore confusing.

Specific job descriptions listing potential functions and responsibilities for personnel developed to assist the orthopaedic surgeon, urologist, and more recently, the internist and family physician have been endorsed by the AMA Council on Health Manpower as developed by representatives of the following medical specialty organizations: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Urological Association, and (jointly) the American Society of Internal Medicine, American Academy of Family Physicians, and American College of

Physicians. *Essentials of an Approved Educational Program for Orthopaedic Physician's Assistants* and for the *Assistant to the Primary Care Physician* have been completed and ratified. *Essentials* for the education of Urologic Physician's Assistants are in development. When *Essentials* are ratified by the collaborating medical specialties and the AMA House of Delegates, educational programs which meet or exceed their criteria may be approved by the AMA Council on Medical Education.

The legal status of "physician's assistants" has been defined by a number of state legislatures. Two regulatory mechanisms for "PA's" have been proposed or enacted. Both vest authority in the State Board of Medical Examiners, or similar state agency, to regulate "physician's assistants" or classes of non-licensed allied health personnel trained to perform services in a dependent relationship to physicians. One mechanism provides an exception to the state's Medical Practice Act that codifies the physician's legal right to delegate routine patient-care functions to qualified non-physicians. The following states have enacted such exceptions: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Utah. In the following states, legislation has been enacted to authorize the State Board of Medical Examiners to approve training programs for "physician's assistants" and approve a physician's use of no more than two graduates of such programs: Alabama, California, Florida, Iowa, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Washington, and West Virginia. In the following states, comparable legislative proposals are or were pending in 1971: Alaska, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

At present there are no uniform standards for national recognition of "physician's assistants" offering assurance of minimal performance qualifications. However, standards for the education of selected categories as noted above have been established by the AMA Council on Medical Education. The AMA Council on Health Manpower is developing the mechanism to establish a national program for the certification of assistants to the primary care physician. In the meantime, questions regarding the legal status of "physician's assistants" should be directed to your local state legislature or state medical association.

#### AMA APPROVED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

As of July 1971, a total of 2,513 educational programs have been accredited by the AMA and collaborating organizations for \*thirteen of the eighteen allied medical occupations listed on the next page. Educational *Essentials* for the remaining occupations have just recently been endorsed or are still in development. Questions regarding allied medical education and requests for lists of approved programs should be directed to the AMA Department of Allied Medical Professions and Services. "Horizons Unlimited", a handbook describing career opportunities in medicine and the allied fields, is available on request from the AMA Department of Program Services.

<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>NO. APPROVED</u>
Assistant to the Primary Care Physician . . . . .	0
Blood Bank Specialist . . . . .	0
Certified Laboratory Assistant* . . . . .	210
Cytotechnologist* . . . . .	117
Histologic Technician . . . . .	0
Inhalation Therapy Technician*. . . . .	84
Medical Assistant*. . . . .	12
Medical Record Librarian* . . . . .	25
Medical Record Technician*. . . . .	29
Medical Technologist* . . . . .	775
Nuclear Medical Technologist* . . . . .	16
Nuclear Medical Technician. . . . .	0
Occupational Therapist* . . . . .	36
Orthopaedic Physician's Assistant*. . . . .	4
Physical Therapist* . . . . .	50
Radiation Therapy Technologist*. . . . .	16
Radiologic Technologist*. . . . .	1139
Urologic Physician's Assistant. . . . .	0
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	TOTAL 2513

"PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT" TRAINING PROGRAMS

In the tables that follow an attempt has been made to organize program listings by state into the following categories: I. Operational Programs to Train Assistants to the Primary Care Physician; II. Operational Programs to Train Assistants for a Specialty; III. Operational Programs to Train Assistants for Primary and/or Specialty Physicians; IV. Federal Programs (see also: Military Training Programs in the Appendix); V. Programs in Development. NONE OF THE PROGRAMS LISTED ARE AS YET APPROVED BY THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. They are listed only as information for the public. For specific details of a program, including information on scholarships or sources of financial aid, we suggest that you write to the director of the program as listed. An Appendix provides sources of additional information. Information regarding programs designed to expand the role of the nurse is not given in this bulletin; however, such information is available from the American Nurses' Association, 10 Columbus Circle, New York, New York 10019.

## 1. OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS TO TRAIN ASSISTANTS TO THE PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN

Name of Program	Director's Address	Minimum Prerequisites	Length of Training	Certificate or Degree
MEDEX	William Harlan, M.D. Department of Medicine University of Alabama Birmingham, ALABAMA 35233	Highschool plus substantial medical corpsman experience	12 months	Certificate
Physician's Associate	William Harlan, M.D. Department of Medicine University of Alabama Birmingham, ALABAMA 35233	2 yrs. college plus 3 yrs. direct patient care experience	24 months	Certificate
MEDEX	Raymond M. Klivel, M.D. Charles Drew Postgraduate Medical School 1620 East 119th Street Los Angeles, CALIFORNIA 90002	Highschool plus substantial medical corpsman experience	15 months	Certificate
Physician's Associate	Alfred Sadler, Jr., M.D. Department of Surgery Yale University School of Medicine 333 Cedar Street New Haven, CONNECTICUT 06510	Substantial military or civilian medical experience, 2 or more yrs. of college recommended	24 months	Certificate
Clinical Associate (not operational)	Joseph Hamburg, M.D. Medical Center Annex No. 2 Room 222 University of Kentucky Lexington, KENTUCKY 40506	H.S. Diploma plus recommendation from a physician	2 years	Associate Degree
Physician Assistant	Mrs. Suzanne Greenberg Northeastern University 201 Robinson Hall Boston, MASSACHUSETTS 02115	H.S. Diploma plus patient care experience	18 months	Certificate
Physician's Assistant	George G. Mallinson, M.D. Graduate College Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, MICHIGAN 49001	2 yrs. college or equivalent	30 months	Baccalaureate. Master's for additional yr. of specialty training
MEDEX - New England Region	Nicholas Danforth, M.D. Dartmouth Medical School Dartmouth College Nugget Arcade, P.O. Box 146 Hanover, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03755	Highschool plus medical corpsman or other background in a medical field	12 months	Certificate
Medical Services Assistant	Arnold Lewis, M.D. Brooklyn Hospital Brooklyn-Cumberland Medical Center 121 DeKalb Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11201	H.S. Diploma. Preference given to area residents with patient care back- ground and medical corpsman	2 years	Certificate & Associate of Applied Science Degree
Physician's Associate	William De'ak, M.D. School of Allied Health Professions Health Sciences Center State University of New York Stony Brook, NEW YORK 11790	H.S. Diploma plus 1 yr. full-time patient care experience	2 years	Certificate & academic credit
MEDEX	Gerald R. Bassett, M.D. University of North Dakota School of Medicine 1600 University Avenue Grand Forks, NORTH DAKOTA 58201	Highschool plus substantial medical corpsman experience	15 months	Certificate
Physician's Clinical Assistant	Director of Technical Education Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus 7300 York Road Parma, OHIO 44130	H.S. Diploma plus 2 yrs. military or 2 yrs. civilian patient care experience	2 years	Associate Degree
Physician's Associate	William D. Stanhope, P.A. University of Oklahoma Medical Center 800 N.E. 15th Street Oklahoma City, OKLAHOMA 73104	60 sem. hrs. of college credit	2 years	Baccalaureate Degree
Physician's Assistant	Wilbur W. Oaks, M.D. Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital 230 North Broad Street Philadelphia, PENNSYLVANIA 19102	Medical corpsman experience and/or H.S. Diploma or equivalent	2 years	Associate Degree
Clinical Associate	Robert K. Bing, Dean School of Allied Health Sciences University of Texas Medical Branch Galveston, TEXAS 77550	60 sem. hrs. of college credit	2 years	Baccalaureate Degree

Name of Program	Director's Address	Minimum Prerequisites	Length of Training	Certificate or Degree
MEDEX	William Wilson, Dep. Director Dept. of Community and Family Medicine University of Utah 50 North Medical Drive Salt Lake City, UTAH 84112	Highschool plus substantial medical corpsman experience	15 months	Certificate
MEDEX	C. A. Markarian, Dep. Director U. of Washington School of Medicine 444 N.E. Ravenna Boulevard Seattle, WASHINGTON 98115	Highschool plus substantial medical corpsman experience	15 months	Certificate
Physician's Assistant	H. C. Myers, M.D. Alderson-Broadhead College Phillip, WEST VIRGINIA 26416	N.S. Diploma. Medical corpsman experience considered.	4 years	Baccalaureate Degree

II. OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS TO TRAIN ASSISTANTS FOR A SPECIALTY

Physician's Assistant (Diabetes)	Boris Boshell, M.D. Diabetes Trust Fund 2117 8th Avenue South Birmingham, ALABAMA 35233	H.S. Diploma	2 years	Certificate
Pathology Assistant	School of Community and Allied Health Resources University of Alabama Medical Center 1919 7th Avenue South Birmingham, ALABAMA 35233	2 yrs. college recommended	1 year	Certificate
Surgeon's Associate	Margaret K. KirklIn, M.D. U. of Alabama Medical Center 1919 7th Avenue South Birmingham, ALABAMA 35233	2 yrs. college. Substantial patient care experience considered.	2 years	Certificate
Child Health Associate	Henry K. Silver, M.D. University of Colorado 4200 East Ninth Avenue Denver, COLORADO 80220	2 yrs. college	3 years	Baccalaureate Degree
Ophthalmic Technologist	Peter Y. Evans, M.D. Georgetown University Hospital 3800 Reservoir Road, NW WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007	2 yrs college, or RN or LPN or 2 yrs. ophthalmology experience	2 years	Certificate
Cardiovascular Technician	Sander M. Hendelsson, M.D. Washington Hospital Center 110 Irving Street, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20012	H.S. Diploma plus patient care experience	18 weeks	Certificate
Anesthesia Technology	Division of Allied Health Professions Emory University School of Medicine Atlanta, GEORGIA 30322	Baccalaureate Degree in the physical or biological sciences	21 months	Master's Degree
Surgical Assistant	Gerald Austin, M.D. Massachusetts General Hospital Boston, MASSACHUSETTS-02114			
Ophthalmic Assistant	Philip Knapp, M.D. Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center 635 West 165th Street New York, NEW YORK 10032	2 yrs. college; college graduate preferred	2 years	Certificate
Surgical Assistant	Mrs. Nancy Walters Dept. of Health Technologies Cincinnati Technical Institute 3520 Central Parkway Cincinnati, OHIO 45223	H.S. Diploma. Medical corpsman experience considered	2 years	Associate Degree
Anesthesia Assistant and Associate	J. S. Gravenstein, M.D. Dept. of Anesthesiology Case Western Reserve University 2109 Adelbert Road Cleveland, OHIO 44106	H.S. Diploma	2 yrs. for Assistant 4 yrs. for Associate	Certificate or Baccalaureate Degree as appropriate
Surgical Assistant	Director of Technical Education Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus 7300 York Road Parma, OHIO 44130	H.S. Diploma (2 yrs. military or 2 yrs. civilian patient care experience preferred)	2 years	Associate Degree
Circulation Technologist	James P. Dearing Ohio State U. College of Medicine School of Allied Health Prof. 410 West 10th Avenue Columbus, OHIO 43210	2 yrs. college	2 (or more) years	Baccalaureate Degree

Name of Program	Director's Address	Minimum Prerequisites	Length of Training	Certificate or Degree
Ophthalmic Assistant	David Paton, M.D. Baylor University College of Medicine Houston, TEXAS 77550	H.S. Diploma. 2 yrs. college recommended	14 months	Certificate
Cardiopulmonary Technician	Director of Admissions Cardiopulmonary Technician Program Spokane Community College East 3403 Mission Avenue Spokane, WASHINGTON 99202	H.S. Diploma	2 years	Associate Degree

## III. OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS TO TRAIN ASSISTANTS FOR PRIMARY AND/OR SPECIALTY PHYSICIANS

Physician's Associate in Coronary Care, General Medicine, or Surgery	Division of Allied Health Professions Emory University School of Medicine Atlanta, GEORGIA 30322	H.S. Diploma plus health service experience	3 years	Associate in Medicine Degree
Physician's Associate in Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Psychiatry, Ob-Gyn, Radiology, Pathology, or a sub-specialty	D. Robert Howard, M.D. P.O. Box 2914 - CH5 Duke University Medical Center Durham, NORTH CAROLINA 27710	H.S. Diploma plus substantial experience in direct patient care. 2 yrs. college recommended	24 months	Certificate. Baccalaureate Degree if eligible
Physician's Assistant in Internal Medicine, Family Practice, Pediatrics, Surgery, or Obstetrics	Leland E. Powers, M.D. Bowman Gray School of Medicine Wake Forest University Division of Allied Health Professions Winston-Salem, NORTH CAROLINA 27103	2 yrs. college, or H.S. Diploma plus substantial medical corpsman experience.	24 months	Certificate, or Baccalaureate Degree if eligible
Physician's Assistant in General Surgery, Gastroenterology, Neurosurgery, Oncology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Ophthalmology, or Urology	Francis N. Lohrenz, M.D. Marshfield Clinic Marshfield, WISCONSIN 54449	RN and/or medical corpsman experience	On-the-job training of no set length	None. Not applicable

## IV. FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Community Health Medic	Charles McCammon, M.D. Phoenix Area Indian Health Service Phoenix Indian Medical Center Phoenix, ARIZONA	Direct Health care experience such as RN, LPN, corpsman or technician; American Indian preferred	2 years	Certificate
Community Health Medic	James W. Justice, M.D. U.S. Public Health Service Indian Health Service P.O. Box 11340 Tucson, ARIZONA 85706	Direct health care experience such as RN, LPN, corpsman or technician; American Indian preferred	2 years	Certificate
Community Health Medic	John Bennett, II, M.D. Gallup Indian Medical Center P.O. Box 1937 Gallup, NEW MEXICO 87770	Experience with Navajo health care or culture.	24 months	Certificate
Marine Physician's Assistant	James Hensley U.S. Public Health Service Hospital Staten Island, NEW YORK 10304	H.S. Diploma plus medical corpsman experience	12 months	Certificate
Physician's Assistant	Robert L. Brutsche, M.D. Federal Bureau of Prisons U.S. Department of Justice WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537	H.S. Diploma plus medical corpsman experience and security clearance	1 year	Certificate

## V. PROGRAMS IN DEVELOPMENT

Physician's Assistant	Dr. Woodbury Perkins Mercy Hospital 4077 5th Avenue San Diego, CALIFORNIA 92103	2 yrs. college or equivalent	1 to 3 years depending upon previous experience	Certificate or Baccalaureate Degree
Physician's Assistant	Michael T. B. Dennis, M.D. Stanford University Medical Center Stanford, CALIFORNIA 94305	Highschool plus substantial medical corpsman experience	1 year. Option to continue for a second year	

Name of Program	Director's Address	Minimum Prerequisites	Length of Training	Certificate or Degree
Physician's Assistant	Dr. Carl Strouse Harbor General Hospital Torrance, CALIFORNIA 90503			
Physician's Assistant	Richard A. Henry, M.D. Dept. of Community Health and Family Medicine University of Florida College of Medicine P.O. Box 712 J. Willis Miller Health Center Gainesville, FLORIDA 32601	H.S. Diploma	24 months	Associate Degree and Certificate
Physician's Assistant	John R. Palmer, M.D. Medical College of Georgia Augusta, GEORGIA 30902			
Dermatology Assistant	Stanford I. Lemberg, M.D. Section of Dermatology, Box 409 Pritzker School of Medicine University of Chicago 550 East 59th Street Chicago, ILLINOIS 60637	H.S. Diploma plus 3 yrs. health care experience such as RN or medical corpsman	12 months	Certificate
Physician's Assistant	Richard J. Cross, M.D. Rutgers University School of Medicine New Brunswick, NEW JERSEY			
Physician's Assistant	Laurel Case, M.D. University of Oregon Medical School Portland, OREGON 97201			
Physician's Assistant	John C. Delahunt School of Allied Health Professions University of Texas Southwestern Medical School Dallas, TEXAS 75235	2 yrs. college	2 years	Baccalaureate Degree

## APPENDIX

## FOR INFORMATION ON . . .

**CIVIL SERVICE QUALIFICATIONS** for the position of Physician's Assistant: Write the U.S. Civil Service Commission, 1900 'E' Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20415 and ask for Announcement No. 428.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN** training programs: Write Mr. Kenneth C. Skaggs, Coordinator of Service Projects at the American Association of Junior Colleges, One Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. 20036.

**HEDEX TRAINING PROGRAMS:** Write Mr. Charles E. Magnusson, Director, Medex Communications Center, 444 N.E. Ravenna Boulevard, Suite 203, Seattle, Washington 98115.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT** training programs and membership: Write Mrs. Dene R. Murray, Executive Director, American Association of Medical Assistants, One E. Wacker Drive, Suite 1510, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

**M.E.D.I.H.C. (Military Education Directed Into Health Careers)** a guidance service for ex-military personnel, organized through state agencies: Write Miss Alice B. Frazier, Program Coordinator, MEDIC, Division of Allied Health Manpower, Bureau of Health Manpower Education, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

**MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS** for physician's assistants:

The **AIR FORCE** has a requirement for 150 PA's. Classes of 25 will start every four months until requirements are met. The first class began July 1, 1971. The program is located at Shepard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas. A minimum requirement for students is two years of experience in contact with patients. The course will be of 24 months duration with 12 months of academic study and 12 months preceptorship. Graduates will have a senior non-commissioned officer rank. For more information write Col. George R. Anderson, USAF, MC, Chief, Medical Education Division (AF-SGP5E), Office of the Deputy Director for Staffing and Education, Randolph, AFB, Texas 78148.

The **ARMY** has a requirement of 400 PA's. Classes of 60 will begin every six months. The first class will begin in February, 1972. The program is located at Fort Sam Houston and is affiliated with Baylor University in order that two years of college credit may be obtained. The course is the same length and general structure as the Air Force program. Graduates will be warrant officers. For more information write Col. Robert Kerrigan, MSG, USA, Chief, Training Division, Office of the Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 20314.

**NAVY** requirements and plans are not yet completed. However, they also anticipate a two-year course. The program will most likely be located in Philadelphia and may be affiliated with Jefferson Medical School. Classes are not expected to start until the middle of 1972. For more information write Capt. James E. Wilson, MC, USN, Head, Educational Support Service, Naval Medical School, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

APPENDIX continued

FOR INFORMATION ON . . .

OPERATING ROOM TECHNICIAN training programs and membership: Write the Association of Operating Room Technicians, c/o A.O.R.N. Incorporated, 8085 E. Prentice Avenue, Englewood, Colorado 80110.

PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATE, ASSISTANT, and AIDE training programs: Write Mr. Wesley J. Duiker, Director, Office of Allied Health Manpower, American Academy of Pediatrics, 1801 Himman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60204.

"PA" PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Write John J. McQuery, President of the American Academy of Physicians' Associates (formerly the American Association of Physician's Assistants) P.O. Box 2914 CHS, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina 27706. The Academy's journal PHYSICIAN'S ASSOCIATE is edited by Russel F. Lawrence. The journal carries a "situations wanted" column for both physicians and assistants; entries should be forwarded to James R. Asher, assistant editor at the above address. Subscription orders for the journal should be sent to Charles B. Slack, Inc., Publisher, "Physician's Associate", 6900 Grove Road, Thorofare, New Jersey 08066.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION training programs for physician's assistants and other allied health occupations: Write Mrs. Martha Long Phillips, Coordinator, Allied Health Training Programs, Veterans Administration, Vermont at "H" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420.

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THE  
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