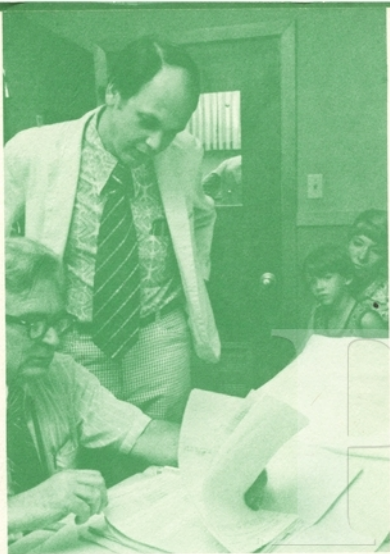


American Academy of Physicians' Assistants
Executive Office
2120 L. Street, N.W.
Gelman Building
Washington, D.C. 20037

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The American Academy of Physicians' Assistants' is designed to represent the graduates of and students in programs preparing the Physician's Assistant. The AAPA was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1968. Its membership is open to health practitioners such as the Physician's Assistant, Medex, Child Health Associate, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Clinician and others.



Definition

The Physician's Assistant is officially defined by the American Medical Association 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."

Professional Role



In 1971, the American Medical Association's Council on Medical Education, in collaboration with the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, and American Society of Internal Medicine, developed the following role model for the Physician's Assistant:

"The high degree of responsibility an assistant to the primary care physician may assume requires that, at the conclusion of his formal education, he possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to provide those services appropriate to the primary care setting. Those services would include, but need not be limited to, the following:

The initial approach to a patient of any age group in any setting to elicit a detailed and accurate history, perform an appropriate physical examination, and record and present pertinent data in a manner meaningful to the physician;

Performance and/or assistance in performance of routine laboratory and related studies as appropriate for a specific practice setting, such as drawing of blood samples, performance of urinalysis and the taking of electrocardiographic tracings;

Performance of such routine therapeutic procedures as injections, immunizations, and the suturing and care of wounds;

Instructing and counseling of patients regarding physical and mental health, on matters such as diets, disease, therapy, and normal growth and development;

Assisting the physician in the hospital setting by making rounds, recording patient progress notes, accurately and appropriately transcribing and/or executing standing orders and other specific orders at the discretion of the supervising

physician, and compiling and recording detailed narrative case summaries;

Providing assistance in the delivery of services to patients requiring continuing care (home, nursing home, extended care facilities, etc.) including the review and monitoring of treatment and therapy plans;

Independent performance of evaluation and treatment procedures essential to provide an appropriate response to life-threatening, emergency situations; and

Facilitation of the physician's referral of appropriate patients by maintenance of an awareness of the community's various health facilities, agencies and resources."



Educational Preparation

Formal educational programs following the "Essentials of an Approved Educational Program for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician" developed by the American Medical Association have been established by Colleges of Medicine, Health-Science Universities and colleges in affiliation with medical centers. There are now some 41 AMA approved programs preparing the physician's assistant.

Usually these programs are at least 24 months in duration and are comprised of a nine month basic science period and a 15 month clinical practicum. Because the physician's assistant represents a new category of health practitioner with a far greater scope and capability than any other allied health professional, these programs stress the acquisition of knowledge, understanding, basic sciences and clinical medicine with the goal of providing the student with some independent problem solving ability. Many programs teach basic medical sciences by body systems, present clinical medicine by problem orientation and interdigitate these basic and clinical sciences with those presented to medical and other health science students. With the educational trend toward viewing the

patient as a whole and unique individual, there has been the emergence of behavioral, social, economic and psychological aspects of patient care in physician's assistant curricula.



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 programs 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 participate in the development of criteria leading to certification of the Physician's Assistant.
7. To assist the American Medical Association in the process for approval 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 Physicians' 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 certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physicians' Assistants. 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 an annual basis. In addition to annual dues each member incurs an initial \$5.00 application fee. A one year journal subscription is included in the annual dues. Membership dues are as follows:

Student — \$15.00 per annum

Fellow — \$30.00 per annum



Continuing Education

Post graduate medical education on a recurring basis is essential to the acquisition of new knowledge and skills while improving those abilities essential to the continued provision of quality health care services. The Academy, in addressing itself to these points, has formulated guidelines for and a program of continuing medical education for its membership to coincide with evolving guidelines for graduate recertification.

Briefly, each member is required to accrue 150 hours of continuing education credit over a three year period. Such credits can be earned through formal education, clinically oriented research, courses for continuing medical education, student instruction in the health professions, publication of data and attendance to scientific meetings and assemblies. Specific guidelines for the continuing medical education program are published quarterly in the Journal.

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 two student members to the Board of Directors of the Academy with full voting privileges.

Certification

The Academy, as a member of the National Commission on Certification of Physicians' Assistants, participates closely with such organizations as the American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Surgeons, American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, National Board of Medical Examiners and the Federation of State Medical Boards in the official recognition of those maintaining as well as those achieving competence in health care as evidenced by examination. The Certifying Examination for the Assistant to the Primary Care Physician is administered on a yearly basis. Specific guidelines for graduate recertification are in preparation at this time.

Journal Subscription

The P.A. Journal
Charles B. Slack, Inc.
6900 Grove Road
Thorofare, New Jersey 08086