

HEW



NEWS

Physic Action

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

HEALTH RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION
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About \$6.2 million in contracts and grants was awarded by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in Fiscal 1973 to institutions in 24 States and the District of Columbia to train physician assistants for primary care, HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger announced today.

Almost 1,900 trainees will be enrolled during Fiscal 1974 in the programs supported by the 34 contracts and 2 grants awarded by the Bureau of Health Resources Development, Health Resources Administration, HEW. Funds were awarded only to continue programs already in operation.

An estimated 700 physician assistants will have graduated by the end of Fiscal 1974 from programs supported by the Bureau. About 300 of them graduated during Fiscal 1973, the first year the Bureau supported the training of physician assistants on a large scale.

The Bureau also awarded a \$425,000 contract to the National Board of Medical Examiners in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to develop a national proficiency examination for physician assistants for primary care. The first examination, according to the Board, is scheduled to be administered December 12, 1973, at various locations throughout the country.

As of July 1, 1973, there were an estimated 800 formally trained physician assistants in the United States, about double the number a year earlier.

The Federal Government has supported the training of physician assistants for primary care in an effort to improve the delivery of medical services, especially in inner-city and rural areas. Graduates of these programs assist physicians practicing family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics, pediatrics or emergency medicine.

The training of physician assistants, a comparatively new occupational category, varies widely. The training period ranges from one to five years.

Graduates are addressed by various titles, depending upon the program completed, such as physician assistant, Medex, Child Health Associate, Clinical Associate, Medical Services Assistant, etc.

Legislation permitting physicians to delegate medical tasks to assistants has been enacted in 33 States. They are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming. In the absence of legislation, the role of physician assistants is determined by custom and usage.

(A COMPLETE LIST OF AWARDS IS ATTACHED)

LIST OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT CONTRACT* RECIPIENTS AND
AMOUNTS AWARDED FY '73

ALABAMA

University of Alabama School of Medicine, Birmingham, (grant) \$135,936

CALIFORNIA

Casa Loma College, Pacoima, \$ 63,900

Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School, Los Angeles, \$251,070

Stanford University Medical Center, Stanford, \$161,395

COLORADO

University of Colorado Medical Center, Denver, \$173,262

University of Colorado Medical Center, Denver, (grant) \$136,242

CONNECTICUT

Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, \$231,200

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

George Washington University School of Medicine, \$103,356

Howard University College of Medicine, \$ 79,660

FLORIDA

University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, \$244,706

GEORGIA

Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, \$713,451

Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, \$136,127

HAWAII

University of Hawaii School of Medicine, Honolulu, \$120,996

INDIANA

Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, \$149,751

IOWA

University of Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa City, \$138,822

* The two grants are listed specifically.

KANSAS

Wichita State University College of Health Related
Professions, Wichita, \$125,874

MARYLAND

Johns Hopkins University School of Health Sciences, Baltimore, \$141,266

MASSACHUSETTS

Northeastern University, Boston, \$ 15,538

MICHIGAN

Mercy College of Detroit, \$128,283

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, \$162,972

MISSOURI

St. Louis University School of Nursing and Allied Health
Professions, St. Louis, \$139,852

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, \$ 55,116

NEW YORK

Albany Medical College, Albany, \$427,153

Harlem Hospital Center, New York,
(Contract awarded to and administered by Antioch College,
Washington, D.C. Campus) \$308,523

State University of New York at Stony Brook, School of
Allied Health Professions, \$ 82,833

NORTH CAROLINA

Wake Forest University, Bowman Gray School of Medicine,
Winston-Salem, \$142,399

Duke University Medical Center, Durham, \$274,592

OKLAHOMA

University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, \$211,184

PENNSYLVANIA

Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, Philadelphia, \$185,223

Pennsylvania State University, Milton S. Hershey Medical
Center, Hershey, \$143,798

SOUTH CAROLINA

Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, \$136,455

TEXAS

Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Medical Center, Houston, \$156,195

University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, School of Allied Health Sciences, \$101,660

UTAH

University of Utah Medical Center, Salt Lake City, \$199,520

WEST VIRGINIA

Alderson-Broaddus College, Philippi, \$109,987

WISCONSIN

Marshfield Clinic Foundation, Marshfield, \$120,713

TOTAL \$6,209,010

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