Physician Assistants

Collaborative Practice in Health Care Delivery

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Our History

- In the United States, PAs have been practicing for roughly 40 years (originated in the military) and today is one of the fastest growing segments of the health care workforce with over 90,000 PAs practicing in primary care and virtually every medical field.

- The introduction of PAs into Canada also began in the Canadian Forces

- PAs were introduced into the Canadian public health care system 13 years ago in Manitoba, in Ontario 6 years ago, and in New Brunswick and Alberta 2 years ago.

Canadian Landscape

- The PA profession is regulated by the college of physicians and surgeons in Manitoba and New Brunswick.. In Alberta and Ontario PAs are not regulated but are permitted to practice by way of delegation under the Medical Act.

- PAs are currently working in four provinces and there are upwards of 400 PAs practicing in a variety of specialities across the country

- There are four university level programs accredited by the Canadian Medical Association

- Becoming a PA is often a second career for many coming from various backgrounds in health care

My Professional Journey

- Radiation Therapist, MRT(T), The Ontario School of Radiation Therapy (1992)
- Graduated from the University of Ottawa 1996 (HK)
- Certified Medical Dosimetrist (2002)
- Applications/Sales for Radiation Medical Device Company
- Graduated from McMaster University, 2010 (PA)
- Orthopedic Trauma Physician Assistant (The Ottawa Hospital)
- Interm Trauma Coordinator (The Ottawa Hospital)
- ER Physician Assistant (Winchester District Memorial Hospital)

What is a PA?

- A Physician Assistant is a health care provider who extends the hand of the supervising physician

- They are trained under the medical model:
  - in understanding the pathophysiology of disease
  - formulating an impression and differential diagnosis
  - and developing a treatment plan

- The activities of the PA are at all times subject to:
  - The direction of the supervising physician
  - Relevant government legislation and regulations
  - The policies of the PA's employer

- Can be entrusted to make certain decisions and to take certain actions autonomously at the discretion of the supervising physician

Scope of Practice

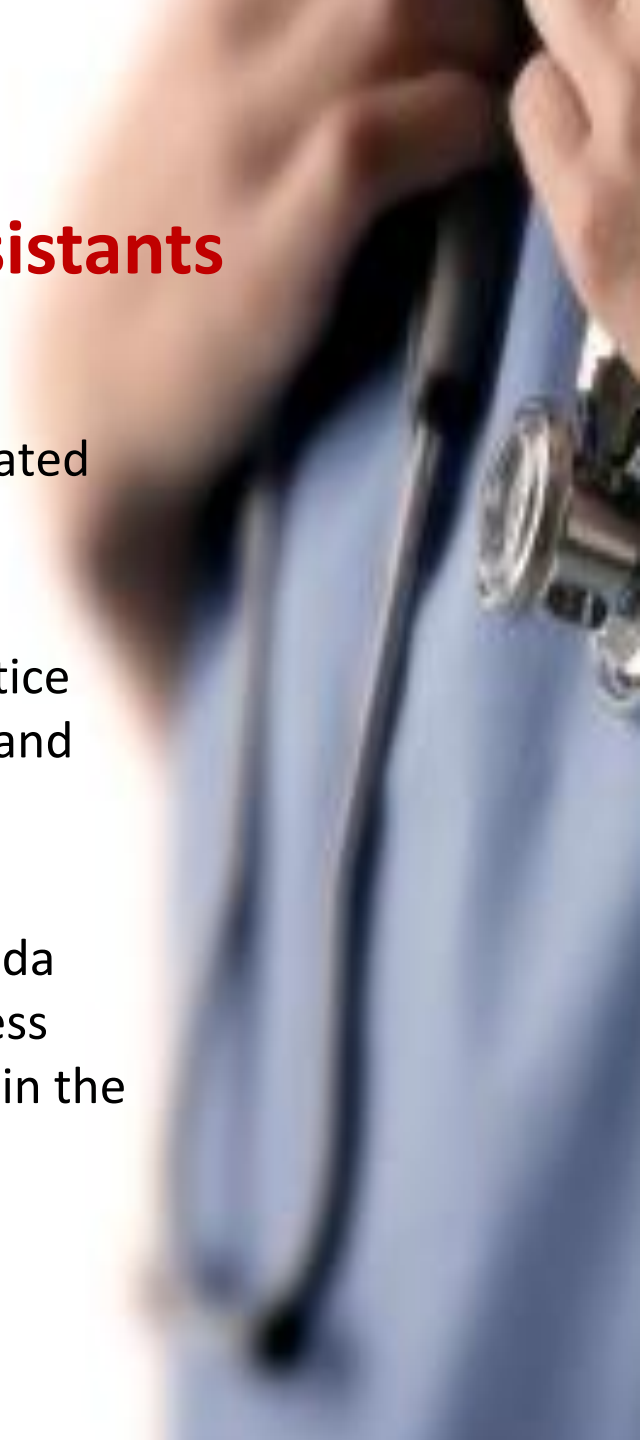
The PA scope of practice mirrors that of his/her supervising physician.

- Complete admission and discharge procedures for hospital stays
- Conduct medical histories and perform comprehensive physical examinations
- Prescribe medication in accordance with Medical Directives and provincial legislation
- Order and interpret laboratory tests, X-ray, ECG and other diagnostic investigations
- Assist the physician in developing and implementing a patient management plan
- Record progress notes in isolated and in-patient care settings
- Surgical Assists

CAPA

Canadian Association of Physician Assistants

- PAs in Canada have been formally trained and educated to meet the national standard set by CAPA
- The National Competency Profile and Scope of Practice was developed in conjunction with the CFPC, CMA, and RCPSC
- The Physician Assistant Certification Council of Canada administers and maintains the PA certification process and ensures that the PA meets the standard set out in the national competency profile for the profession



The PA Model of Collaborative Care

PAs working collaboratively with physicians and other health care professionals and can:

- Increase access to care and the level of service for patients specifically in trauma settings
- Reduces the workload placed on the physician and other health professionals
- Foster inter-professional collaboration among other health care providers to deliver the best outcome for the patient

Conclusion

- The value that PAs add to ED and other trauma settings has been proven
- PAs working collaboratively in the ED can improve patient care while minimizing the stress placed on the team
- With the health human resources challenges that exist across the country, PAs can be one of the potential solutions to the problems Canadians face with access to timely quality care

Physician Assistants Optimizing Patient Care

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Thank you

www.capa-acam.ca

PA Accredited Programs

- Canadian Forces Health Services Training Centre
- University of Manitoba PAEP
- McMaster University Medical Sciences PA Program
- Consortium for PA Education at the University of Toronto/Northern Ontario School of Medicine/Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences