

It is expected and assumed that PA education programs will include curriculum that is more comprehensive and exhaustive than this list is able to capture, and will cover diseases and conditions that a PA will be able to recognize and diagnose. The following list of diseases and conditions which a PA has been exposed to; in education and in practice, is as follows;

1. Ears, Eyes, Nose and Throat
2. Cardiovascular
3. Respiratory
4. Gastrointestinal
5. Obstetrics
6. Genitourinary / Reproductive
7. Dermatological
8. Neurological
9. Musculoskeletal
10. Endocrine and Metabolic
11. Infectious Disease
12. Emergency Medicine
13. Blood / Haematology
14. Mental Health

Enabling Competencies

Physician Assistants are able to...

- Demonstrate a commitment to their patients, profession and society through ethical practice.
- Exhibit appropriate professional behaviour in practice including honesty, integrity, commitment, compassion, respect and altruism.
- Demonstrate a commitment to deliver the highest quality care and maintenance of competence.
- Recognize and appropriately respond to ethical issues encountered in practice, including issues of patient consent.
- Appropriately manage conflicts of interest.
- Recognize the principle and limits of patient confidentiality as defined by practice standards and the law.
- Maintain appropriate professional interaction with patients.
- Recognize and respond to other unprofessional behaviours in practice.
- Participate in peer review.
- Demonstrate a commitment to their scope of practice and the unique PA-Physician relationship.
- Abide by the professional, legal and ethical codes of medical practice.
- Comply with national, federal and provincial regulations, where applicable.
- Demonstrate a commitment to Physician Assistant health and sustainable practice.
- Balance personal and professional priorities to ensure personal health and sustainable practice.
- Strive to heighten personal and professional awareness and insight.
- Recognize other professionals in need and respond appropriately.

REMSI



Remote Emergency Medical Services Incorporated

When you operate in a remote territory with limited or delayed access to the nearest hospital, there is an increased level of risk. This is where REMSI can provide services through their Physician Assistant Program (PA). In situations of greater risk involving possibly mass casualties, a PA is typically in place instead of nurse practitioners, nurses or paramedics. A PA can recognize, for example, that something as common as an upset stomach can turn out to be much more. The PA has the knowledge, experience and background to differentiate between an upset stomach and a possible appendicitis.



A Physician Assistant conducts various testing, administers allergy shots and immunizations for patients. They also conduct consultations, counselling and referrals to specialists as may be appropriate. They draw blood, apply casts, perform hearing and sight tests, perform pulmonary function testing, dressing changes and packings and offer medical teaching to help patients with health care promotion.





REMSI Physician Assistants are military trained. They have vast experience in remote locations and in areas of world conflict. Much of their training is devoted to working in hostile and isolated environments. With a link to a collaborative physician, they use their skills to provide general and emergency medical care to large numbers of people, under their care. The collaborative physician is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whenever his professional advice and opinion is required. If necessary, Physician Assistants have access to the physician especially when there is a serious injury or illness. These situations may require medical air evacuation in which case the PA facilitates the transfer to the appropriate facility. Our services include working with the emergency response team.



They offer advanced medical training and support for other medical personnel. They perform temporary fillings and denture repairs. They prescribe medications in accordance with a formulary and can perform minor surgeries and suturing. They provide follow-up for patients who are sick or may be injured, and provide counselling to patients who have difficulty coping with certain issues. They also help with the care and maintenance of the Emergency Response equipment.

In addition, a PA's strength is Trauma. They start and maintain intravenous access; they insert urinary catheters and nasogastric tubes. They insert chest tubes and perform fasciotomies if required. In extreme mass casualty situations, they provide triage to determine the priority order of medical treatment and evacuation. They are familiar with many environmental diseases and conditions that are unique to isolated areas such as snow blindness, frostbite, heat exhaustion and various types of insect bites.

What formal education do PA's have?

- They must continue to keep up their skill set by re-certifying core requirements in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and the International Trauma Life Support.
- Accredited PA education programs are available in Canada and in the US. The PA education program at the Canadian Forces Medical Services School in Borden, Ontario, includes medical education at civilian hospitals throughout Canada. The Canadian Medical Association has accredited it since 2003. Training in accredited programs focuses on understanding the pathophysiology of disease, differential diagnosis determination, and treatment plan development. The Canadian Forces program includes 2,000 hours of clinical rotation in areas such as emergency medicine, paediatrics, internal medicine, orthopaedics, sports medicine, general surgery, urology, anaesthesia, trauma team and family practice.



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(Services available in both national languages)

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