

Graduate Competencies for Physician Assistants

Expected Functions and Tasks for Graduates of the RIT Physician Assistant Program

Graduates will demonstrate proficiency at performing the following skills, tasks and procedures when working with male and female patients across the life spectrum of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds with varying degrees of medical acuity, in a wide variety of medical settings. These settings include but are not limited to office-based practices, inpatient facilities and long-term care settings in urban, suburban and rural communities:

- I. Demonstrate ability to properly triage patients with potentially life-threatening injuries or illnesses and the ability to initiate appropriate care
- II. Demonstrate good interpersonal communication skills and the ability to develop an appropriate and professional rapport with patients, families and other healthcare workers
- III. Obtain a comprehensive history, eliciting information pertinent to the development of a diagnosis. Each history will contain the following elements:
 - o Chief complaint
 - o History of present illness
 - o Past medical history
 - o Family history
 - o Social history
 - o Review of systems
- IV. Perform a comprehensive physical examination
- V. Obtain a problem focused history when appropriate
- VI. Perform a problem focused physical examination when appropriate
- VII. Differentiate between normal and abnormal physical exam findings
- VIII. Order and interpret appropriate laboratory and diagnostic studies
- IX. Critically analyze history, physical examination and diagnostic study findings to formulate an accurate assessment and demonstrate medical decision making skills in the formulation of a treatment plan
- X. Organize and document all patient data in written form to ensure the establishment of an accurate record compliant with all medical/legal standards
- XI. Deliver concise oral presentations (using either bullet or formal format) which accurately summarize pertinent patient data

- XII. Discuss the risks, benefits, associated with various diagnostic studies, treatment referrals and medication choices
- XIII. Discuss and demonstrate proficiency in the use of evidence based medicine in medical decision making
- XIV. Determine when additional intervention is needed and facilitate medical referrals and/or access to allied health providers (i.e. physician specialist, physical therapy, social work, hospice care, psychotherapy, etc.)
- XV. Educate and instruct the patient regarding symptoms, physical examination findings, assessment and treatment plan recommendations, including verification that the patient clearly understands all discharge instructions
- XVI. Counsel patients regarding normal development and aging patterns as well as health maintenance, disease prevention, screening techniques, immunizations, and the risks/benefits of various lifestyle choices.
- XVII. Demonstrate the ability to follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards in clinical practice.
- XVIII. Demonstrate knowledge of NY State guidelines regarding the recognition of child abuse and the physician assistant's role as a mandated reporter
- XIX. Maintain CPR/ACLS certification during the clinical component of the student's education
- XX. Demonstrate professional integrity, honesty, dependability, respect for self and others, compassion, and an ability to protect patient confidentiality and trust.
- XXI. Demonstrate commitment to the ideals of life-long learning, professional excellence, teamwork, and tolerance for diversity and community service.
- XXII. Recognize and comply with the accepted standards within the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) Act of 1996.
- XXIII. Perform the following medical procedures with proper supervision:
 - A. Perform a pelvic exam including proper speculum, PAP smear and culture technique
 - B. Demonstrate digital rectal exam and the ability to test stool for occult blood using guaiac cards
 - C. Demonstrate proper breast exam technique and the ability to instruct the patient regarding self-breast exam
 - D. Demonstrate proper testicular exam technique and the ability to instruct the patient regarding self-testicular exam
 - E. Test visual acuity using a Snellen chart

- F. Perform a venipuncture
- G. Perform an arterial puncture
- H. Start an IV
- I. Obtain stool, urine, sputum, throat or wound drainage specimen for culture
- J. Perform injections including subcutaneous, intradermal, intravenous and intramuscular
- K. Interpret intradermal skin test
- L. Insert a nasogastric tube
- M. Obtain and interpret an electrocardiogram
- N. Analyze spirometry readings
- O. Demonstrate proper technique for a lumbar puncture
- P. Insert and remove a Foley catheter
- Q. Demonstrate proper technique for a thoracentesis
- R. Demonstrate proper technique for a paracentesis
- S. Demonstrate the ability to utilize OSHA recommended Universal Precautions
- T. Demonstrate the ability to use aseptic technique and the ability to establish a sterile field
- U. Demonstrate proper wound care including skin closure using various suturing techniques
- V. Apply casts and splints using proper materials and techniques
- W. Demonstrate the ability to determine when supplemental oxygen is required by a patient and the factors which must be considered when determining the best delivery method and rate of flow
- X. Demonstrate competency in the interpretation of plain radiographs of the chest, abdomen, spine and extremities