

University of Detroit Mercy
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM
PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

This program will prepare entry level professionals capable of:

1. Approaching a patient of any age group, in any setting, to elicit a detailed and accurate history, perform an appropriate physical examination, delineate problems, record and present the data.

OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the program the entry level professional will be able to:

- establish communication with the patient by utilizing techniques which enhance communication and information gathering
- select and ask relevant questions to elicit an accurate medical history
- recognize non-verbal cues to elicit an accurate medical history
- revise history taking to accommodate ages and condition variations
- organize the historical data gathered into a concise medical record
- recognize anatomy, physiology and condition variations in the body system and organs in order to perform an appropriate physical examination
- apply appropriate examination techniques ensuring patient comfort and privacy
- utilize diagnostic tools and skills including special procedures where appropriate to perform an appropriate physical examination
- assess expected findings, potential disorders and abnormalities in all body systems and organs
- record findings accurately and according to accepted format, either comprehensive or problem oriented
- develop an appropriate differential diagnosis based upon analysis of the subjective and objective data gathered and recorded, as well as previously gained biological, behavioral and medical knowledge, including diagnostic patterns and epidemiology
- document the data and patient assessment (using written or oral/dictation techniques) in a record that is legible, effective, appropriately comprehensive and efficient in communicating information
- orally present the data gathered in a concise, logical and professional manner

2. Performing and or interpreting, at least to the point of recognizing deviations from the norm, common laboratory, radiologic, cardiographic and other diagnostic procedures used to identify pathophysiological processes

OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the program the entry level professional will be able to:

- order appropriate diagnostic tests considering indications, contraindications, expected outcomes and complications, value, cost, sensitivity, specificity, patient risk and appropriate sequencing
- correctly and safely perform (using universal precautions where appropriate) and appropriately document certain common diagnostic and therapeutic procedures such as; intramuscular, intradermal and subcutaneous injections, venipuncture, arteriopuncture, intravenous therapy, urethral urinary bladder catheterization, nasogastric intubation, application of O₂ therapy, ECG, collection of certain specimens (ie fluid and tissues specimens, cervical scraping, cultures, stool for occult blood), incision and drainage, local anesthesia, PFT, wet smear, gram stain, KOH prep, removal of foreign body, cerumen removal, certain biopsies and lumbar puncture
- differentiate between normal and abnormal laboratory findings or diagnostic test outcomes
- interpret common laboratory and other diagnostic procedures such as; UA, CBC and differential, ESR, chemistry profiles, culture and sensitivity, reticulocyte count, coagulation studies, hepatitis screen, gram stain, arterial blood gases, primary level ECG interpretation and identification of life

- threatening dysrhythmia, primary level CXR, abdominal film and extremity films
- provide patient education and obtain consent prior to initiation of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures

3. Assisting the physician in assessing patients in the acute and long term primary care setting, developing and implementing patient management plans, recording patient progress, assisting in the provision of continuing care and helping patients cope with illness and injury with education and counseling.

OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the program the entry level professional will be able to:

- deliver or assist in the delivery of medical services to a variety of populations requiring initial, continuing and special care and in a variety of settings including rural and urban underserved areas
- deliver patient care in a manner consistent with the scope of practice of the supervising physician and accepted standards of care
- apply the concepts of clinical decision making and problem solving in assessment and management of patients in the context of their community
- communicate with and coordinate information among all members of the health care team
- develop a patient management plan which includes therapeutic, diagnostic and health promotion, disease prevention components-recognize limitations in medical service delivery and appropriately seek consultation
- ensure implementation of the management plan
- follow-up, review and modify the management plan based upon patient outcomes
- apply principles of pharmacotherapeutics and non-pharmacological modalities as appropriate for patient management
- consider the patient's overall condition including psychosocial and economic factors in the development of the management plan
- facilitate referral of patients to appropriate medical and social services as part of a patient management plan
- instruct and counsel patients with an awareness and sensitivity to cultural diversity and patient autonomy, regarding health risks, compliance with therapeutic regimens, emotional problems and other issues of daily living as appropriate for the patient's age and gender, utilizing appropriate family support, community services and materials
- prepare documents and summaries as appropriate utilizing proper medical charting principles (progress notes, orders, H & Ps, admission and discharge summaries, pre and post op notes etc)

4. Performing specific routine technical and surgical procedures, assisting with more complex procedures and taking initiative in performing evaluation and therapy in response to life threatening situations

OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the program the entry level professional will be able to:

- provide wound care including suturing, application of dressings, application of casts and other forms of immobilization
- administer medications by various routes
- second assist in certain surgical cases
- use principles of aseptic technique and universal precautions
- recognize life threatening situations and take the appropriate steps in initial emergency management
- perform procedures only after providing appropriate patient education and obtaining consent

5. Conveying an understanding of the multi-dimensional role of the physician assistant, demonstrating professionalism in service to the profession and the community, and obtaining and maintaining certification and applicable licensure as a PA

OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program the entry level professional will be able to:

- achieve a passing score on the PA National Certifying Examination
- understand the process for licensure in their chosen practice state
- demonstrate ethical problem solving abilities within the professional code of conduct
- comply with institutional, local, state and federal guidelines, laws and regulations
- understand how factors such as changing health care needs, introduction of technology, economic considerations, health policy, political, legal, intra-professional issues and trends in health care impact upon the practice of medicine
- utilize critical thinking in the process of lifelong learning especially demonstrated by keeping abreast of medical/surgical trends and maintaining certification status
- realize the importance of participation in professional leadership roles and participate in service to the profession
- realize the importance of public health issues in the community and participate in activities which promote community well being

6. Assessing and contributing to the body of professional literature

OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this program the entry level professional will be able to:

- utilize critical thinking and research skills in the process of lifelong learning
- interpret medical literature in order to maintain a critical, current and operational knowledge of new medical findings
- contribute to the body of professionally relevant literature
- convey scientific information accurately and effectively

References:

Department of Physician Assistant Studies, School of Allied Health Sciences, University of Texas Medical Branch, "Entry Level Competencies for PAs" Draft

Medical College of Ohio, Physician Assistant Program, Tony Miller, "Graduate Competencies"

Physician Assistants in the Health Workforce 1994, Final Report of the Advisory Group on Physician Assistants in the Workforce" submitted to Council on Graduate Medical Education, HRSA

Essentials and Guidelines for Accredited Educational Programs for PAs, CAAHEP 1990