

Physician assistants

Statement of core duties

A physician assistant (PA) functions in a multidisciplinary team under the delegation of a supervising medical practitioner and contributes to improving the health outcomes of Queenslanders in a variety of clinical and environmental settings.

A PA is a clinician working as a member of a multidisciplinary team under the delegation and supervision of a medical practitioner.

An individual PA's scope of practice is determined by the supervising medical practitioner (within the supervisor's credentialing and scope of practice) and defined in an approved PA [practice plan](#). Monitoring and reporting to the supervising medical officer are to be at intervals determined by the supervisor and defined in the PA [Practice Plan](#), on clinical practices and outcomes within the clinical service area.

Possession of a tertiary degree qualification from an Australian Physician Assistant postgraduate or masters program or qualification from an international accredited PA training program, is mandatory. Qualifications are verified and the scope of practice is endorsed by a medical credentialing committee and approved by the Hospital and Health Services (HHS) delegate.

The role is generalist in nature, with a focus on primary, emergency, and preventative care. However, under delegated practice a physician assistant may specialise, depending on experience, and the scope of clinical practice of the supervising medical practitioner.

The following core duties are in line with the Professional Officer Level 4 (PO4) classification level, prescribed [Hospital and Health Service General Employees \(Queensland Health\) Award – State 2015](#).

Core Duties

- Participate in treatment and healthcare services as agreed with the supervising medical officer in the PA [Practice Plan](#) and in accordance with the PA's competence and Scope of Practice.
- Deliver routine PA services in general clinical and/or emergency department and/or specialist services in accordance with prescribed professional and ethical standards.
- Under supervision, manage complex situations using, undertaking a wide range of clinical investigations and coordinating and managing patient care.
- Apply professional clinical judgement and problem-solving skills, as per the PA scope of practice, in delivering clinical services with indirect and infrequent clinical practice supervision, as defined in the approved PA [Practice Plan](#).
- Work cooperatively and effectively with the supervising medical officer and undertake delegated tasks as defined in the PA [Practice Plan](#).

- Work in partnership with the broader multidisciplinary health care team, and other health service providers to ensure continuity of care is maintained and to achieve optimal patient health outcomes.
- Provide general and clinical advice to a diverse range of patients, their families and communities.
- Actively contribute to planning and caseload management and delivery and evaluation of a diverse range of general and/or specialist clinical services.
- Accurately and concisely record all patient interaction as well as workload measurement statistics, to facilitate reporting and the analysis of service trends and to comply with clinical documentation standards.
- Effectively plan, manage, coordinate and evaluate patient care activities under the guidance of senior clinical practitioners.
- Develop clinical practice knowledge and expertise through active learning within a team, and by engaging in professional development activities.