

What is a PA?

(Physician Assistant)

Physician Assistants (PA)- are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PA's conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventative health care, assist in surgery and in most states, including Colorado, can write prescriptions.

Because of their close working relationship with physicians, PA's are educated in the medical model to complement physician training. Upon graduation from an accredited PA program, Physician Assistants take a national certifying examination. In order to maintain certification, PA's must log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and pass a re-certification exam every 6 years.

The Physician Assistant profession was developed in the 1960's in response to a national physician shortage and has continued to extend quality medical care to patients in a variety of medical specialties and primary care settings since its origin.