

POLICY TITLE	General Register – Physician Assistants
PURPOSE	Ensure all physician assistants registered and who may provide restricted activities in a variety of specific settings under supervision, have the required supervision, training and competencies to assist the practise of medicine safely.
SCOPE	<p>This policy applies to physician assistants on the General Register who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are <b>not</b> the most responsible provider in the care of patients. Their assistance in the practise of medicine is limited and must be under the supervision of a physician, surgeon or osteopath.</li> </ul> <p>In regard to any restricted activity,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a physician, surgeon or osteopath must only supervise a restricted activity that the supervising physician, surgeon or osteopath is competent to perform and that is appropriate to the supervisor’s scope of practice, and</li> <li>a physician assistant must not perform a restricted activity that the supervising physician, surgeon or osteopath is not competent to perform or that is not appropriate to the scope of practice of the supervising physician, surgeon or osteopath.</li> </ul>
NOTES	<p>Requirements for registration under this policy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration on the General Register—Physician Assistants is not a pathway to independent practice. Physician Assistants must meet the criteria for either the Provisional Register or the General Register to be eligible for practice. Physicians are not eligible for physician assistant registration.</li> </ul>

**LAST REVISED: AUGUST 30, 2021**  
**APPROVED BY COUNCIL: SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

## POLICY STATEMENT

Physician Assistants whose training, certification and clinical practice experience must include:

- 1) Be a **graduate** from a Canadian PA education program recognized by the Physician Assistant Certification Council of Canada (PACCC). Otherwise, be a **graduate** of an Accreditation Review Commission (ARC) program in the United States and be certified by the National Commission of Certification for Physician Assistant (NCCPA).

- 2) Two years of physician assistant training that leads to a degree in physician assistant studies
- 3) Have **certification** by the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA).
- 4) Demonstrate [English language proficiency](#), if applicable.
- 5) Submit a satisfactory [criminal record check](#).
- 6) Demonstrate currency of practice as a physician assistant.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- [English language proficiency policy](#)
- [Criminal record check policy](#)

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Registrar is given the authority to determine applications for registration under sections 28 to 30 of the *Health Professions Act* (HPA). Section 20 of the HPA allows the Registrar to delegate functions and duties to another person. The Registrar has delegated his duties and responsibility under Part 2 of the HPA to the Assistant Registrar responsible for registration.

## **APPROVAL**

Council governing the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta

## **AUTHORITY DOCUMENTS**

- [Health Professions Act](#)
- [Health Professions Act: Physicians, Surgeons, Osteopaths and Physician Assistants Profession Regulation](#)
- [CPSA Bylaws](#)