

Physician Assistants Provisional Register Policy

POLICY TITLE	Provisional 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 Provisional Register who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are not 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, and • do not meet the criteria for the General Register Physician Assistant. <p>In regard to any restricted activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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.
NOTES	Registration on the Provisional 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.

LAST REVISED: NOVEMBER 23, 2021
APPROVED BY COUNCIL: DECEMBER 2, 2021

POLICY STATEMENT

To be eligible for the Physician Assistants Provisional Register, Physician Assistants must have the following training, certification and clinical practice experience:

- 1) Be a **graduate** from either a Canadian physician assistant education program recognized by the Physician Assistant Certification Council of Canada (PACCC), or 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) Have two years of physician assistant training that leads to a degree in physician assistant studies.
- 3) Be eligible for **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 DOUMENTS

- [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 and Surgeons of Alberta

AUTHORITY DOCUMENTS

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