Physician Assistants

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Past president of Kentucky Academy of Physician Assistants
Objectives

At the end of this session the primary care physician should be able to:

1. Summarize what is a physician assistants (PA) education and training
2. Describe how a PA would function in a family medicine practice
3. List what are the new laws regarding PAs in Kentucky
4. Determine where do you go to 'recruit a PA'.
Virginia Valentin

- PA 2007
- RN for 8 years prior
- Professor at UK PA program 2012
- Currently- Past president of KAPA
PAs in the United States
PAs in the United States

- 80,214 PAs
- 127,000 expected by 2025
- Median pay-$97,000
- 25% in Family medicine with workforce trend mirroring physician trend into specialty care
- 173 PA programs
- 13,136 PA students
History of Kentucky PAs

- 1965- Duke starts first PA program in US
- 1973- University of Kentucky PA program
- 1988- Kentucky PAs get certification
- 2006- Kentucky PAs get licensure
- 2010- University of Cumberland PA program
- 2014- Sullivan University PA program
PAs in Kentucky

- Approximately 1000 PAs
- 33% work in Primary care
- 22% work in Family medicine
- [http://www.kentuckypa.org/](http://www.kentuckypa.org/)
PA Education model

- Average PA student
  - 26 y/o
  - 70% female
  - 3% military
  - 2,000 clinical experience
PA Education model

- Medical model
  - 1 ½ year didactic
  - 1 year of clinicals with MD/DO or PA
  - Family medicine/Internal medicine

- 88% programs Masters degree
- No programs with doctorate degree
PA Education model

Courses
- Physiology
- Anatomy
- Pathophysiology
- Pharmacology
- Physical Diagnosis

Rotations
- Internal medicine
- Family medicine
- OBGYN
- Emergency medicine
- Surgery
#1 Masters degree
PA role in Family Practice

- Physician led team
- Dependent provider
- 85-100% pay by insurance
- “Incident to” billing

76%

The majority – 76 percent – of patients said that they prefer a physician to lead and coordinate their own and their family’s health care.

*Source – American Medical Association 2012*
What a PA can do

- Perform History and Physical Exams
- Diagnose and treat illnesses
- Order and interpret labs
- Prescribe medications
- Manage patients with chronic illnesses
- Minor procedures
- Patient education
- Hospital or nursing home rounds
- Home visits
- Take Call
PA Scope of Practice

- Each PA’s scope of practice is defined by the individual’s education and experience, state law, facility policy, and physician delegation.

- The PA’s scope of practice is mainly determined by the supervising physician’s scope of practice and his or her delegatory decisions.

- The physician evaluates the PA’s competency and performance, and together they develop a team approach based on both the PA’s and physician’s clinical skills and patient needs.

- The physician and PA share ethical and legal responsibility for the care of a patient.
How to utilize a PA?

• Options:

1. Work together with shared schedule

2. Work side by side with separate schedules leaving open slots in PA’s schedule for sick visits or overflow from MD/DO’s schedule

3. Work in separate clinics with MD available via phone for supervision
What PA brings

- Education in the medical model
- Increased coordination of care
- Increased patient satisfaction
- Increased quality of care
- Increased revenue (PA paid $0.36 for every $1 generated for practice)
- Decreased physician workload
AAPA Six Key Elements

1) “Licensure” as the Regulatory term
2) Full Prescriptive Authority
3) Scope of Practice Determined at Practice Level
4) Adaptable Supervision Requirements
5) Chart Co-Signature Requirements Determined at the Practice Level
6) Number of PAs an MD may Supervise Determined at the Practice Level
Kentucky Statues

KRS 311.840-311.862

- 13 separate statutes addressing PAs

KMBL

http://www.kbml.ky.gov/ah/pa.htm
Supervision

- Amendment effective June 1 2013
- 18 months of direct supervision for new graduates eliminated
- 3 months of direct supervision required until June 1 2014
Co-signature

- Amendment to KRS 311.856 effective June 1 2014
- Supervising physician required to co-sign 10% of chart notes
- Co-signature not required to execute an order

Sincerely,

Joseph Tuvia, M.D.
Future Goals

• KRS 311.854

• A physician may enter into supervision agreements with a maximum of four (4) physician assistants but shall not supervise more than two (2) physician assistants at any one (1) time. Application for board approval to be a supervising physician shall be obtained individually for each physician assistant.
How to recruit a PA

• Post a job on KAPA website or AAPA website
• Contact a local PA program
• Take a PA student
Questions?
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Resources


• [www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)

• [www.kentuckypa.org/](http://www.kentuckypa.org/)

• [http://www.kbml.ky.gov/ah/pa.htm](http://www.kbml.ky.gov/ah/pa.htm)