

Occupational Health Scope of Practice Guidelines

The following categories define the intended scope of practice for the physician assistant as delegated by a supervising physician. The physician assistant understands the primary supervising physician may delegate care differently within the general scope of practice outlined below. The physician assistant will not perform a task not delegated by a supervising physician, nor will the physician assistant perform a new task without direct physician supervision.

Skin and Appendages:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of common dermatoses, alopecia, skin and nail disorders.
- Cauterize, excise, biopsy lesions.
- Obtain second opinion of suspicious lesions.

Eye:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of symptoms of ocular disease, common disorders of lids, lacrimal apparatus, conjunctiva, ocular trauma, and foreign body removal.

Ear, Nose and Throat:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of common diseases of the ear, nose and facial sinuses, diseases of the oral cavity and pharynx, and diseases presenting as neck masses.

Lung:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of disorders of the airways, pulmonary infections, pleural diseases, pulmonary nodules, masses and tumors.
- Ordering and interpretation of pulmonary function testing.
- Any patient presenting in respiratory distress or suspected pulmonary emboli is to be evaluated by supervising physician.

Heart:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of hypertensive cardiovascular disease, valvular disease, coronary disease, rate and rhythm disturbances, conduction disturbances and heart failure.
- Prophylaxis of bacterial valvular heart infection will be performed but suspected infection will also be evaluated by supervising physician.
- Chest pain suspicious of acute cardiac disease will also be evaluated by supervising physician, including supervising physician review of testing such as electrocardiography.

Blood:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of anemias, neutropenia, leukemias, and other myeloproliferative disorders, lymphomas and hypercoagulable states.
- Patients requiring transfusions are to be evaluated by supervising physician.
- Appropriate consultation with hematology and/or oncology specialists will be made according to severity of illness.

Alimentary Tract:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of common gastrointestinal diseases, diseases of the esophagus, stomach, duodenum, appendix, small intestine, colon and rectum, and anorectal diseases.

Liver, Biliary Tract, and Pancreas:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of diseases of the liver, biliary tract, and pancreas.

Breast:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of benign breast disorders and carcinoma of the breast.
- Appropriate consultation with hematology and/or oncology specialists will be made according to severity of illness.

Gynecology:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of postmenopausal vaginal bleeding, premenstrual dysphoric syndrome, dysmenorrhea, vaginitis, cyst and abscess of Bartholin's duct, endometriosis, pelvic inflammatory disease, contraception, and perimenopause/menopause.

Allergic and Immunologic Disorders:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of common allergic diseases or symptoms.

Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Disorders:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of degenerative and crystal-induced arthritis, muscle strains and spasms, pain syndromes, soft tissue injuries, other rheumatologic and connective tissue disorders, and sports-related injuries.
- Physician assistant may be involved with comprehensive history and physical examination, addiction assessment, and therapeutic drug monitoring for patients receiving controlled substance analgesics, prescribed by a supervising physician, for chronic pain syndromes.

Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of fluid and electrolyte disorders, and diagnosis and management of acid-base disorders and fluid management.
- Fluid management for pediatric patients with significant or symptomatic dehydration will involve consultation with a supervising physician.

Urology:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of hematuria, proteinuria, genitourinary tract infections, urinary stone disease, urinary incontinence, male erectile dysfunction and sexual dysfunction, benign prostatic enlargement, malignant genitourinary tract disorders, and chronic renal disease.
- Appropriate consultation with hematology, oncology, urology and/or nephrology specialists will be made according to severity of illness.

Nervous System:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of headache, seizure and other movement disorders, weakness and paralysis, transient ischemic attacks, cerebrovascular accidents, dementia, multiple sclerosis, stupor and coma, and neuropathies.
- Evaluation and management of transient ischemic attacks, cerebrovascular accidents, significant head injury, spinal trauma, and suspected intracranial mass will involve consultation with a supervising physician.

Psychiatric Disorders:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of common psychiatric disorders and substance abuse disorders.
- Patients with suicidal or homicidal ideation or attempts will be managed with the consultation of a supervising physician or licensed psychiatrist with or without additional referral to a licensed clinical psychologist.
- Patients evaluated who are to be considered for commitment for psychiatric or substance induced illness will be managed with the consultation of a supervising physician.

Endocrinology:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of common endocrinologic disorders which would include but not be limited to diabetes mellitus, hypoglycemia, diseases of the thyroid or parathyroid glands, dyslipidemias, diseases of the adrenal gland, diseases of calcium or vitamin D regulation or metabolic bone disease, diabetes insipidus and SIADH.

Infectious Diseases:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of fever of unknown origin, animal and human bite wounds, sexually transmitted diseases, acute infectious diarrhea, viral diseases including human immunodeficiency virus infection, viruses and gastroenteritis, spotted fevers, other rickettsial and rickettsial-like diseases, bacterial infections, mycobacterial infections, chlamydial infections, syphilis, Lyme disease, helminth infections, candidiasis, histoplasmosis, coccidioidomycosis, pneumocystosis and fungal infections.
- Evaluation and management of patients with suspected active tubercular infections or tertiary syphilis will be performed with consultation with a supervising physician.

Disorders Due to Physical Agents:

- Scope includes diagnosis and management of disorders due to cold, heat, burns, electric shock, drowning, poisoning, and other disorders due to physical agents.
- Evaluation and management of these conditions will involve stabilization pending transfer via emergency medical services for transport to hospital.

General Approach to the Patient; Health Maintenance and Disease Prevention:

- Scope includes health maintenance and disease prevention, prevention of substance abuse, and management of common symptoms including pain, fever and hypothermia, weight loss, and fatigue.

