Trust Your Health to a Physician Assistant (PA)

What is a PA?

PAs practice medicine and prescribe medications on healthcare teams with physicians and other healthcare providers. PAs are proven to improve patient access, elevate health outcomes and increase patient satisfaction. With over 1200 licensed PAs in Oregon, they are providing quality care for patients throughout Oregon — including in your community!

The Myths and Facts About PAs

**MYTH #1 — PAs are the "physician’s assistant"**

FACT — NOT AT ALL! PAs are a key part of the patient-centered healthcare team, licensed to practice medicine, prescribe medication, treat chronic illnesses and assist in surgery throughout Oregon and SW Washington. PAs have graduate degrees, with a minimum of 2,000 hours of clinical rotations in outpatient clinics and hospitals after a year of classroom study.

**MYTH #2 — Patients won’t be happy unless they see a “real doctor”**

FACT — Couldn’t be less true. 93 percent of patients who recently saw a PA agreed that PAs are trusted healthcare providers. (According to a Harris Poll conducted on behalf of AAPA.)

**MYTH #3 — The physician has to be on-site for a PA to see patients**

FACT — No state (including Oregon and Washington) requires a physician to be on-site 100% of the time PAs are seeing patients. Collaboration is key — PAs and physicians work together as members of a healthcare team. On average, PAs see 60 patients per week.

**MYTH #4 — PAs cannot see new patients or perform consultations**

FACT — Not true. PAs can see patients in all settings without a physician present. PAs are especially critical to enhancing access to care in rural and underserved areas.

**MYTH #5 — PAs don’t add value**

FACT — Wrong! Studies show PA-physician teams deliver high-quality care. Results also indicate that PAs enhance care coordination, increase access, and elevate health outcomes and that utilizing PAs is cost-effective for health systems.

**MYTH #6 — PAs cannot practice in specialties**

FACT — Erroneous on all counts! There are approximately 104,000 certified PAs today (over 1200 in Oregon alone) practicing medicine, performing consultations and seeing new patients in every medical and surgical subspecialty from pediatric neurosurgery to oncology to primary care.

Simply put, Oregon’s PAs help patients get well and stay well

To find out more about what we do, please visit www.oregonpa.org