

Entrustable Professional Activities for Canadian Physician Assistants (EPA-PA)

An Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) is an essential task that an individual is trusted to perform and related to the desired competencies and performance outcomes. The Physician Assistant's formal assessment of the academic education will demonstrate competency in each EPA-PA before graduation and transition to clinical practice. To be entrusted with these EPAs, PA students are directly observed and supervised before graduation by qualified professionals to ensure their readiness for indirect supervision on day one of practice.

1. P.A. education programs integrate EPAs into their respective curriculum and map to course learning objectives.
2. P.A. programs develop an assessment plan with their curriculum, educational methodology, and available clinical resources.
3. P.A. programs ensure graduates of the Program obtain each EPA.
4. The EPAs' focus is on common presentations expected in core rotations and clinical encounters, including new, continuing, and chronic patient interactions across all patient age groups and genders in the following settings: outpatient/emergency departments, office/ambulatory clinics, and medical/surgical inpatient wards.
5. Although Physician Assistants will acquire more specialist knowledge of relevance to their field, they must maintain the same level of general competence across the whole P.A. practice scope as tested by the National Certification Exam.
6. Graduates of physician assistant education programs must be ready for generalist medical practice within a formalized indirect physician supervision structure and negotiated autonomy.

Assessment Strategies

1. Learners advance upon demonstrated mastery; Term to Term; Academic Year to Clinical Year; Clinical Learner to Graduate.
2. Competencies include explicit, measurable, transferable learning objectives that empower learners; EPAs and the Clinical Learning Objectives
3. Assessment is meaningful, and a positive learning experience for learners; Questions mapped to Learning Objectives, ITERS mapped to EPAs
4. Learners receive timely, differentiated support based on their individual learning needs; Ongoing assessment
5. Learning outcomes emphasize competencies that include applying and creating knowledge and developing essential skills and dispositions.
6. A Competency-Based Medical Education approach allows our P.A. education program to assess and validate what the P.A. learner can be trusted to do from graduation to transition to practice.

Each EPA-PA is longitudinally assessed throughout the educational training program. The EPA-PA are inter and intra-dependent, overlap, and seldom observed in isolation. These EPA-PAs occur in various clinical encounters across all patient populations, clinical environments, and cultural settings. P.A. student assessment includes multiple members of academic and medical teams. Health professional education must allow for various real-life experiences encompassing human lifespan development and

involve exploring biological, cognitive, and psychosocial changes and constancies throughout the entire life span. (Page 7 PARSEC JAN 2021: NCP-2021 Canadian EPA-PA)

Canadian PA Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA-PA)

- EPA 1** Practices patient-focused, safe, ethical, professional, and culturally competent medical care across the healthcare continuum.
- EPA 2** Obtains histories and performs physical examinations, demonstrating the clinical judgement appropriate to the clinical situation.
- EPA 3** Formulates clinical questions and gathers required clinical evidence to advance patient care and communicates those results to the patient and medical team.
- EPA 4** Formulates and prioritizes comprehensive differential diagnoses.
- EPA 5** Develops and implements patient-centered, evidence-based treatment plans within the formalized physician, clinical team and caregiver relationship.
- EPA 6** Accurately documents the clinical encounter incorporating the patient's goals, caregiver goals, decision-making, and reports into the clinical record.
- EPA 7** Collaborates as a member of an inter-professional team in all aspects of patient care including transition of care responsibility.
- EPA 8** Recognizes a patient requiring immediate care, providing the appropriate management and seeking help as needed.
- EPA 9** Plans and performs procedures and therapies for the assessment and the medical management appropriate for general practice.
- EPA 10** Engages and educates patients on procedures, disease management, health promotion, wellness, and preventive medicine.
- EPA 11** Recognizes and advocates for the patient concerning cultural, community, and social needs in support of positive mental and physical wellness.
- EPA 12** Integrates continuing professional and patient quality improvement, life-long learning, and scholarship.