



MASTER PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

Policy Comprehensive Assessment of Clinical Skills (PAEP7300)	
Effective Date	Current Practice Formatted January, 2016
Review Date	
Approving Body	MPAS Progress Committee; MPAS Curriculum Committee
Implementation	MPAS Program Director (or designate)
Contact	MPAS Program Director
Applies to	Master Physician Assistant Studies, Proposed Graduates

1. Purpose – Define requirements of the MPAS Comprehensive Assessment of Clinical Skills

To outline the processes and responsibilities for providing a comprehensive assessment of clinical skills and determination of readiness for entry to practice as a Physician Assistant from the University of Manitoba.

2. Definitions:

- 2.1. Clinical Year (2) – the second year of the MPAS program following successful completion of the academic first year which provides clinical teaching experiences during a series of core courses.
- 2.2. Clinical Courses (Rotations) – a formal course of study occurring during the clinical year providing the student an educational experience per the MPAS curriculum occurring at a distributed learning site.
- 2.3. Comprehensive Assessment of Clinical Skills (CACS) – the formative and summative assessments held in the clinical year as a component of the final comprehensive assessment.
- 2.4. Clinical Encounter Log – a student record of patient encounters occurring during the Clinical Rotation using the MPAS approved system.
- 2.5. End-of-Rotation Exams - formative multiple-choice examinations provided as a student self-assessment tool quarterly during the clinical year.
- 2.6. ITER – In-Training Evaluation Report – (also referred to as a PA-ITER) - A comprehensive summary of the Physician Assistant Student’s (PA-S) performance during a clinical rotation. There are both Mid-point ITERs (formative) and Final-ITERs (summative) that occur during a clinical year course.
- 2.7. Mini-Clinical Examinations (Mini-CEX) – an observed performance of a clinical assessment or procedure whose primary purpose is formative, and used to aid the Preceptor in evaluation and assessment of the student’s clinical skills.

- 2.8. Preceptor – Regulated Health Practitioner, such as a physician or physician assistant, who gives practical experience and training to a student, with a current Regulatory College Certificate of Practice (licence)
- 2.9. Progress Committee (MPAS) – Program Committee responsible to oversee the application of policies and procedures regarding PA-Students' academic progression and remediation,

3. POLICY STATEMENTS

- 2.1. The MPAS Program is responsible for delivering a curriculum and opportunities to its Students through academic instruction and clinical rotations that meet the requirements of CANMEDS-PA (Formally the National Competency Profile) and the requirements to qualify for a Master of Physician Assistants Degree awarded from the University of Manitoba.
- 2.2. The MPAS Program Director is to ensure that all required and related documentation is reviewed and provided that attest the PA-Graduate is prepared for Entry-to-Practice as a Physician Assistant according to the requirements of the College of Physician and Surgeons of Manitoba, and the University of Manitoba.
- 2.3. In event of substandard performance the MPAS Program Director and Medical Director are responsible to ensure retesting or remediation in support of the student is provided in accordance to University of Manitoba policy.

4. Graduation Requirement for MPAS Degree

- 4.1. Upon completion of all components of this comprehensive 26-month 96.5 Credit Hour program, graduates receive a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Requirements are defined in University of Manitoba MPAS Supplemental Regulations, and UManitoba Course Calendar as approved by University Senate and Board of Governors. They include:
- 4.2. Surpassing the minimum degree grade point average (degree GPA) of 3.0 with no grade below C+ in all the required course work;
- 4.3. Obtaining a Passing Grade on the Comprehensive Year One Exam, PAEP 7150,
- 4.4. Successfully completing the Comprehensive Assessment of Clinical Skills program requirement, PAEP 7300 which occurs at the end of the second program year.
- 4.5. Obtained a positive summative evaluation of their clinical performance based on reviews of PA-In Training Evaluation Reports, Mini-Clinical Examination evaluations, and observed histories and physical exams and clinical cases which demonstrates competence at an Entry-to-Practice Physicians Assistant level.
- 4.6. The student successfully researched and presented and passed PAEP 7350 Capstone project, as outlined by the MPAS Supplemental Regulations of the University of Manitoba.

5. Comprehensive Assessment of Clinical Skills (CACS)

- 5.1. Per MPAS Supplemental Regulations 4.8.2 - A comprehensive assessment for the clinical portion of the program (PAEP 7300) will occur at the end of Year 2.

- 5.2. The CACS requires that PA Faculty compile a summative evaluation of each student's clinical performance based on review of (10) PA-ITERS, (22) mini-CEX evaluations, and (Currently 12) observed histories and physical exams. The purpose of this assessment is to capture data on areas of weakness in clinical performance that may be apparent only when clinical performance is assessed longitudinally. Students whose clinical performance is deemed unsatisfactory based on this comprehensive review will be referred to the PA Progress Committee, who will determine on a case by case basis whether appropriate remediation can be prescribed.
- 5.3. The CACS Assessment will attest to the potential graduates ability to:
 - 5.3.1. Accurately obtain a clinical history;
 - 5.3.2. Perform the appropriate physical examination skills required;
 - 5.3.3. Develop differential diagnosis;
 - 5.3.4. Building from the differential diagnosis order and interpret the appropriate diagnostic studies;
 - 5.3.5. Correlating the information obtained from the patient encounter the PA-S should formulate a treatment plan for the diseases and conditions commonly encountered in the selective patients population;
 - 5.3.6. Present that information and plan for approval to the physician supervisor according to the protocols of that jurisdiction;
 - 5.3.7. Function effectively as a dependent and supervised Medical Clinician who integrates all of the CanMEDS Roles to provide optimal, ethical and patient-centred medical care;
 - 5.3.8. With appropriate consultation with the Attending and Supervising Physician implement and provide the effective management plans that include preventive, patient education and therapeutic interventions;
 - 5.3.9. Demonstrate designated procedural skills, both diagnostic and therapeutic;
 - 5.3.10. Seek appropriate consultation and follow-up care for the patient with licensed and qualified professionals, including the appropriate community referrals that will address issues related to the social determinants of health.

6. REFERENCE

- 6.1. MPAS Policy Failure of Final OSCE and PAEP7300 (Retesting)
- 6.2. MPAS Supplemental Regulations 4.8.2
- 6.3. UManitoba Academic Calendar and Catalog

7. POLICY CONTACT

MPAS Program Director

Developed from Existing Practice and Guidelines approved by University of Manitoba Senate and Board of Governors 2008;

Reviewed Curriculum Committee 2010, 2015

Approval Electronically by MPAS Progress Committee – January, 2016