

# Information Resources

## PA ASSOCIATIONS

Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants  
625 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
800-975-9344 Fax 217-789-4664  
[www.ampka.com/iapa](http://www.ampka.com/iapa)

American Academy of Physician Assistants  
950 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
703-836-2272 Fax 703-684-1924 [www.aapa.org](http://www.aapa.org)

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistant (NCCPA)  
6849-R2 Peachtree Dunwoody  
Atlanta, GA 30328  
770-399-9971 [www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net)

## PA LICENSING FACILITY

Illinois Department of Professional Regulation  
320 West Washington Street, 3rd Floor  
Springfield, IL 62786  
217-785-0800 312-814-4500 [www.dpr.state.il.us](http://www.dpr.state.il.us)

## PA PROGRAMS IN ILLINOIS

Cook County Hospital/Malcolm X College  
PA Program  
1900 West Van Buren  
Chicago, IL 60612  
312-850-7255

Finch University/Chicago Medical School PA Program  
3333 Green Bay  
North Chicago, IL 60064  
847-578-3312  
[www.finchcms.edu/rhs/msphysass.html](http://www.finchcms.edu/rhs/msphysass.html)

Midwestern University PA Program  
555 31st Street  
Downers Grove, IL 60515  
630-515-6034 [www.midwestern.edu](http://www.midwestern.edu)

Southern Illinois University PA Program  
Lindgren Hall, Room 129  
Mail Code 6516  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
618-453-1151 [www.som.siu.edu/pap](http://www.som.siu.edu/pap)



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*"Dedicated to Quality  
Health Care"*

*Provided by the  
Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants*

## *"What is a Physician Assistant?"*

Physician Assistants are skilled members of the health care team who provide a broad range of medical services, in both primary care and specialty areas, under the supervision of licensed physicians. The Physician Assistant profession was founded in 1965 at Duke University in North Carolina. By 1975, there were approximately 1500 practicing Physician Assistants. Today there are over 32,000 PAs working in the United States. There are over 104 accredited Physician Assistant training programs across the country.



## *Role*

The Scope of practice of Physician Assistants is determined by their supervising physician and state legislation including:

- Obtaining medical histories
- Performing physical examinations
- Ordering or performing diagnostic tests and obtaining laboratory results
- Diagnosing and treating common medical conditions
- Prescriptive privileges for all legend drugs and controlled substances III-V
- Assisting in surgery
- Administering emergency care

The physician does not need to be physically present when the PA provides these and other services, but the PA always works with the supervision of the physician, who maintains the overall responsibility for the patient's care.



## *Practice Setting*

Physician Assistants function in a wide variety of health care environments:

- Private Offices
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Health Maintenance Organizations
- Urban/Rural Satellite Clinics
- Industrial Clinics
- Correctional Institutions
- Veteran's Administration & Military Facilities



## *Impact*

Physician Assistants, working with physicians, providing a better distribution of health care services, and improve the access to those services, especially in rural and medically under served areas. Patient waiting times are reduced, and they have more time for questions, counseling and education. This helps to increase the level of patient understanding and compliance, which in turn reduces the cost of health care.

Research has demonstrated the high levels of patient acceptance, the excellence of care administered, and the cost effectiveness of PA utilization.



## *Legislation*

Laws and regulations define the Physician Assistant, establish registration and competency requirements, as well as the responsibilities of their supervising physician. In Illinois, licenses are obtained through the Department of Professional Regulation.

Payment for services rendered by a PA shall be made to his or her employer if the payor would have made payment had the services been provided by a licensed physician. A physician can supervise up to 2 PAs providing quality healthcare.



## *Education*

All Physician Assistant students have prior college education and some previous health care experience. PA Programs average 24 months in length with both broad classroom training and structured clinical rotations, including: Surgery, Pediatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Psychiatry, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Emergency Medicine.

A certificate and/or academic degree is awarded upon graduation. PA programs are accredited by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA).

After graduation, PAs take the certifying examination of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). After passing the exam, their title is PA-C. To obtain a license in Illinois, a PA must have passed this exam and be certified. PAs are required to have 100 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) every 2 years to maintain this certification as well as take a recertifying exam every six years. No other Allied Health Professional has these types of requirements of continuing education/recertification.