

**New York State Department of Civil Service**  
DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Classification Standard

**Occ. Code 5226400**

**Physician Assistant, Grade 23**

Brief Description of Class

Physician Assistants are licensed health care professionals who provide medical care and treatment services to individuals\* under the supervision of licensed physicians in accordance with Article 131-B of the Education Law. Incumbents provide a variety of medical services, which are assigned by and within the scope of practice of the supervising physician, and may include activities, such as conducting physical examinations, diagnosing health conditions, prescribing treatments, and collaborating with other health care providers to achieve treatment goals and objectives.

Positions are classified at various State agencies.

\*Individual refers to the person who is being treated or cared for, and is used in place of patient, client, or other nomenclature specific to an agency.

Distinguishing Characteristics

*Physician Assistant:* full performance level; provides medical care services to individuals under the supervision of a licensed physician in accordance with Article 131-B of the Education Law.

Related Classes

Nurse Practitioners (Various Parenthetics) are advanced practice nurses who are certified by the New York State Education Department in a specialty practice area; provide primary, acute, and/or long-term care services within their certified specialty area in accordance with Article 139 of the Education Law; perform physical exams; diagnose and treat illnesses and other health problems; prescribe medications, medical tests, and treatments; and collaborate with physicians and other health care providers to ensure that individuals receive appropriate, timely, and coordinated care.

Clinical Physicians are licensed physicians who provide a variety of general medical care and treatment services to individuals in accordance with Article 131 of the Education Law; conduct physical examinations; diagnose medical conditions and

prescribe treatments; and collaborate with other health care providers and disciplines to achieve treatment goals and objectives.

### Illustrative Duties

#### *Physician Assistant*

Under the supervision of a licensed physician, a Physician Assistant may be assigned duties including but not limited to the following:

- Obtains, reviews, and updates individual histories.
- Conducts physical examinations; orders tests and reviews results; writes medical orders; determines and/or confirms diagnoses; and treats a variety of health conditions within the scope of practice of the supervising physician.
- Establishes individual goals and treatment objectives, often in conjunction with the individual's treatment team.
- When necessary, collaborates with the supervising physician to discuss abnormal findings, differential diagnosis, and additional diagnostic and treatment recommendations.
- Prescribes medications, treatments, medical devices, and immunizing agents, and monitors impact on the condition of individuals, modifying as needed.
- Educates and counsels individuals and families regarding illnesses, medications, tests, and treatment goals and procedures.
- Maintains medical record documentation consistent with agency, State, and federal requirements.
- Functions as a member of an interdisciplinary treatment team, attends meetings, and serves on committees to improve individual outcomes.
- Collaborates with other health care providers and organizations to ensure continuity of care.
- Performs utilization reviews for proposed medications, procedures, treatments, testing, and durable medical equipment requests to determine medical necessity.
- Provides guidance and support to medical staff regarding proposed requests as required.

- Performs quality assurance reviews on medical staff performance as required.
- Performs research, writing, and communications consistent with their professional training to facilitate the development of medical treatment guidelines, formularies, fee schedules and other such tools to promote best clinical practices.

### Minimum Qualifications

#### *Physician Assistant*

Open Competitive: possession of a license and current registration to practice as a Physician Assistant in New York State.

**Note:** Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent, and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum qualifications for appointment or examination.

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