

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

ABOUT THIS JOB

Physician Assistants work under the supervision of a physician to examine patients, diagnose illnesses and injuries, and provide treatment. They may, in some cases, prescribe medication. In rural areas, physician assistants may be the primary care providers at clinics where a physician is present only a few days per week. Physician Assistants spend much of their time on their feet, make imperative decisions, want to be helpful, and have the ability to interact with people in sensitive circumstances.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS PERFORM THE FOLLOWING TASKS:

- Examine patients to obtain information about their physical condition
- Interpret diagnostic test results for deviations from normal
- Obtain, compile and record patient medical data, including health history, progress notes and results of physical examination
- Make tentative diagnoses and decisions about management and treatment of patients
- Prescribe therapy or medication with physician approval
- Administer or order diagnostic tests such as x-ray, electrocardiogram and laboratory tests
- Perform therapeutic procedures such as injections, immunizations, suturing and wound care, and infection management
- Instruct and counsel patients about prescribed therapeutic regimens, normal growth and development, family planning, emotional problems of daily living and health maintenance

PREPARATION AND TRAINING FOR THIS POSITION

A high school diploma or GED, a bachelor's degree and two years of specialized training in health sciences are required for this job.



EDUCATION:

- * **HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED**
- * **BACHELOR'S DEGREE**