

PAs (physician associates/physician assistants) are defined by their commitment to putting patients first and using their medical expertise, comprehensive diagnostic skills, and compassion to improve the health of patients and entire communities.

## What is a PA?

- PAs are licensed clinicians who practice medicine in every specialty and setting. Trusted, rigorously educated and trained healthcare professionals, PAs are dedicated to expanding access to care and transforming health and wellness through patient-centered, team-based medical practice.
- To obtain a license, a PA must graduate from one of the 293 PA programs in the United States.
- To maintain certification, PAs must complete 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years.
- PAs practice in every work setting, from hospitals and urgent care centers to outpatient offices and clinics, often serving as a patient's primary care provider. They practice medicine in all medical and surgical specialties, including family medicine, internal medicine, emergency medicine, pediatrics, gerontology, and more.
- PAs have more than 514 million patient interactions every year.
- PAs believe communities flourish when people are healthy—when their care is personalized and effective, their concerns are heard, their questions are answered, and they're empowered to take charge of their long-term health and well-being.
- PAs Go Beyond because they believe expanding access to quality care is more than just a job—it's a call to service.



159.000 PAs

PAs are one of the fastest-growing healthcare provider professions, with nearly 160,000 PAs working in communities nationwide.

In 2022, U.S. News & World Report named PA as one of the top two healthcare professions in the country for the fifth year in a row.