



# Physician Assistant Licensure

## 7.1 CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENCE

### To qualify for a Physician Assistant licence, an applicant must:

1. Demonstrate that the physician meets the requirements that apply to all applicants for licensure:
  - English Language Proficiency, and
  - Currency of Practice, and
  - Good Character, and
  - Good Standing.
2. Additionally, a Physician Assistant must:
  - Be a graduate of an accredited physician assistant training program in Canada or United States (ARC-PA), and
  - Hold a certified Physician Assistant designation in Canada (CCPA) or United States (PA-C), or
  - Hold licensure as a Physician Assistant in another province or territory of Canada.

### To Apply:

If you are a Physician Assistant who is interested in working in Saskatchewan, please email the Registration Services Team at [cpsreg@cps.sk.ca](mailto:cpsreg@cps.sk.ca) to learn more.

If an offer of employment has been made and a regulated member has been identified to supervise, you will be asked to prepare a Practice Description and Contract of Supervision as part of your application process.

These forms will be emailed to you at the time of your inquiry.

In addition to meeting requirements, a Physician Assistant is required to submit a *Practice Description* and *Contract of Supervision* with a Regulated member for the Registrar to review and approve, prior to licensure.

A Physician Assistant may only perform an authorized practice if authorized by their supervisor, and if the supervisor is a regulated member who is legally permitted to perform the authorized practice. The Physician Assistant must practice at all times under a Registrar-approved *Practice Description* and *Contract of Supervision*.

### Conditions for the Physician Assistant

- a. The Physician Assistant must clearly identify themselves as such, when engaging in professional practice.
- b. The Physician Assistant must have in place at all times a supervisor and a Contract of Supervision and Job Description.
- c. The Physician Assistant must provide proof that they are enrolled in and meet the requirements of continuing professional development program to maintain licensure.

***The requirements established in the Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act and the Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Regulations may permit a Physician Assistant to be issued a licence to practise, if licensed in another Canadian jurisdiction.***

Below outlines the Regulatory Bylaws approved by Council for Physician Assistant practice in Saskatchewan:

### **Bylaw 2.13.1 Physician Assistants**

(a) Definitions:

The following definitions apply in this paragraph 2.13.1:

- (i) **Authorized practice** – an act which constitutes the practice of medicine as established in *The Medical Profession Act, 1981*.
  - (ii) **Regulated member** – a physician licensed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan who is actively engaged in the practice of medicine in Saskatchewan.
- (b) The Council may issue a licence to practise as a physician assistant to a person who:
- (i) meets the non-exemptible standards and standards applicable to all classes of licensure in paragraph 2.3, except for subparagraphs (c) and (d)(vi) through (viii), subject to any necessary changes to refer to practice as a physician assistant rather than the practice of medicine; and,
  - (ii) is a graduate of an accredited physician assistant training program in Canada which has been approved by the Council; and,
  - (iii) has obtained certification through the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA) Physician Assistant Certification Council of Canada (PACCC); and holds and maintains the designation Canadian Certified Physician Assistant (CCPA).
- (c) The Council may issue a licence to practise as a physician assistant to a person who:
- (i) meets the non-exemptible standards and standards applicable to all classes of licensure in paragraph 2.3, except for subparagraphs (c) and (d)(vi) through (viii), subject to any necessary changes to refer to practice as a physician assistant rather than the practice of medicine; and,
  - (ii) is a graduate of a physician assistant training program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) in the United States of America; and,
  - (iii) has passed the examination set by the National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants in the United States of America and holds the designation PA-C; has obtained certification through the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) in the United States of America and holds and maintains the designation Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C).
- (d) The Council may issue a licence to practise as a physician assistant to a person who meets the requirements established in *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act* and *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Regulations*.
- (e) In addition to meeting the requirements in paragraph (a), (b), (c) and (d), an applicant for a licence to practise as a physician assistant must also submit a practice description and contract of supervision with a regulated member to the Registrar for approval. The Registrar will only issue a

licence to practise as a physician assistant if the Registrar approves the practice description, approves the supervisor(s) as appropriate to provide the supervision, and approves the contract of supervision.

- (f) A physician assistant may only perform an authorized practice if the physician assistant:
  - (i) receives authorization from their supervisor to perform the authorized practice; and
  - (ii) is supervised by a regulated member who is legally permitted and competent to perform the authorized practice; and
  - (iii) practises under a contract of supervision and a practice description that have been approved by the Registrar.
- (g) A physician assistant must clearly identify themselves as such when engaging in professional practice.

#### **Contract cancelled if no supervisor**

- (h) A contract of supervision is automatically cancelled if:
  - (i) the supervisor is unable to fulfill their responsibilities under the contract; and
  - (ii) none of the designated alternate supervisors is able to fulfill their responsibilities under the contract.

#### **Practice description**

- (i) A practice description must:
  - (i) be in writing;
  - (ii) describe the duties and the services that the physician assistant will provide; and
  - (iii) be approved by the Registrar.

#### **Expanding practice description**

- (j) Before expanding the scope of their professional practice, a physician assistant must first obtain the Registrar's approval of a new practice description.

#### **Contract of Supervision**

- (k) A contract of supervision must:
  - (i) be in a form approved by the Registrar;
  - (ii) designate by name the regulated member who will supervise the applicant as the primary supervisor and indicate the primary supervisor's role and responsibilities;
  - (iii) designate by name one or more regulated members who will supervise the applicant as an alternate supervisor and indicate:
    1. the period during which, or the circumstances under which, the alternate will assume the duties and responsibilities of the primary supervisor, and
    2. any substantive alteration in the physician assistant's duties or responsibilities while supervised by the alternate supervisor;
  - (iv) include a term of the contract stating that each regulated member who signs the contract agrees to supervise the physician assistant;
  - (v) set out the terms and conditions for performing the duties described in the practice description;
  - (vi) be signed by:
    1. the physician assistant or the applicant for registration as a physician assistant;
    2. the primary supervisor;
    3. each designated alternate supervisor; and
    4. in the case of a physician assistant practising in a departmental or program setting, each additional regulated member who agrees to supervise the applicant; and
  - (vii) be approved by the Registrar.

### **Primary supervisor's role**

- (l) A primary supervisor is responsible for giving direction and providing regular reviews concerning the performance of the physician assistant while they engage in professional practice.

### **Supervisor's duties**

- (m) A supervisor must:

- (i) provide personal on-site supervision for at least the number of hours each month as specified in the contract of supervision;
- (ii) subject to paragraph (n), be available to supervise the physician assistant for at least the number of hours each week as specified in the contract of supervision; and
- (iii) comply with any requirement set out in the practice description concerning the supervision of physician assistants.

- (n) A supervisor is not required to be physically present for the weekly supervision if the physician assistant is engaged in their professional practice in a location separate from the supervisor's regular practice location.

### **Limits on supervisor**

- (o) A supervisor must not permit a physician assistant to engage in professional practice beyond the scope of the supervisor's professional practice.
- (p) A supervisor must not permit or require a physician assistant to engage in professional practice, including the performance of an authorized practice, if the supervisor determines that the physician assistant is not competent to do so.
- (q) A supervisor must not permit a physician assistant to independently assume some or all of the supervisor's duties or responsibilities.

### **Performance reports**

- (r) A primary supervisor must submit to the Registrar reports on the performance of the physician assistant that meet any requirements specified by the Registrar.

### **Number of supervisors and assistants**

- (s) At any one time, a regulated member may not be the sole primary supervisor for more than three physician assistants.
- (t) As an exception to subsection (s), the registrar may permit a member to be the supervisor for more than three physician assistants. The permission must be granted before the contracts of supervision are entered into.

### **Designated alternate supervisor**

- (u) The role of a designated alternate supervisor is to assume some or all of the duties and responsibilities of the primary supervisor under the contract when they are absent or otherwise unable to act.
- (v) If an additional or substitute alternate supervisor in a department or program is proposed:
  - (i) the designation of that supervisor must be confirmed in writing by the additional or substitute alternate supervisor and by the physician assistant by either adding the additional designation to the contract of supervision or entering into a new contract of supervision; and
  - (ii) the amendment or the new contract must be approved by the Registrar.
- (w) If the primary supervisor is absent or unable to act for any reason, they must take reasonable steps to ensure that the designated alternate supervisor supervises the physician assistant.

### **Maintenance of Insurance**

- (x) In order to be granted a licence, or renew a licence, a physician assistant shall provide proof that they are insured under a contract of malpractice insurance with an insurance company registered to do business in Saskatchewan that provides a minimum coverage of two million dollars for each

occurrence. A physician assistant shall at all times maintain such insurance during the period that they are licensed in Saskatchewan.

**Maintaining Continuing Professional Development**

- (y) In order to be granted a licence, or renew a licence, a physician assistant shall provide proof that they are enrolled in and meet the requirements of the continuing professional development program provided by the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA) Physician Assistant Certification Council of Canada or the continuing professional development program provided by National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.
- (z) The provisions of bylaw 5.1(f) through (m), with all necessary changes from “physician” to “physician assistant”, apply to physician assistants.
- (aa) The provisions of bylaw 7.1 to 24.1 inclusive, bylaw 27.1 and bylaw 33.1, with all necessary changes from “physician” to “physician assistant”, apply to physician assistants.