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**EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

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**SUBJECT:**

Physician Assistant - Job Description

NO. 19.55

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Original Date of Issue: 3/06

## Patient Population

Reviewed:							
Revised:	4/09						

Neonate	√
Pediatric	√
Adolescent	√
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

**DEFINITION:**

The Physician Assistant performs medical tasks in the care and treatment of patients as delineated in the plan of supervision for Physician Assistants. Physician's Assistants work under the administrative and technical supervision of the Attending ED physician, who accepts total responsibility for the care of the patient when determining diagnosis and therapeutic treatment. Such supervision shall not necessarily require the physical presence of the supervising physician at the time and place where the services are performed.

**Physician's Assistant, Emergency Care**

In the emergency care role, the Physician's Assistant functions as a member of an emergency medical team providing a broad spectrum of comprehensive emergency medical services, requiring skills which are obtained by completion of a comprehensive medical emergency training program. Such positions utilized diagnostic procedures in the treatment of physical ailments which range from superficial injuries to acute medical disorders.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:**

Takes medical histories and performs physical examinations, utilizes diagnostic techniques, such as observation, palpation, percussion or auscultation; evaluates physical signs, symptoms and medical history to assess patient's physical condition.

Under the supervision of a physician:

- orders and interprets diagnostic studies including labs, xrays, ecgs.
- Conduct the follow-up program which includes review of abnormal laboratory and radiology reports, requests for follow up, and notification of patients, private medical doctors and clinics when necessary.
- Recognizes and evaluates patients who require the immediate attention of a physician and, when necessary, initiates, without supervision, emergency medical treatments.
- Performs minor surgical procedures under the supervision of a physician.
- Performs laboratory and therapeutic procedures under the supervision of a physician, including nasogastric intubation, obtains cultures, performs and reads skin tests, takes EKG tracings, debrides superficial wounds, administers subcutaneous local anesthesia (excluding nerve blocks), and applies tractions, under the supervision of a physician.
- Administers treatments and medications under supervision of the physician.
- May write and dispense prescriptions with the supervising physicians' name and license number stamped on the prescription.
- Instructs and counsels patients in matters pertaining to their physical and mental health.
- Maintains and signs medical records pertaining to treatments and examinations administered.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

A certificate to practice as a Physician's Assistant issued by the State Board of Medical Quality Assurance.  
Valid BCLS, ACLS, and PALS (if working in pediatrics)