



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

# Physician Assistant Specialties

## What is a PA?

Physician assistants work alongside a supervising physician and medical team in the pursuit of improving patient access and quality of care!



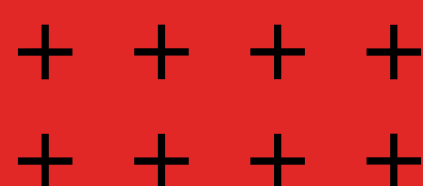
## What Can I do as a PA?

- Varies by physician, specialty & province, but may include:
  - Making rounds, diagnosing, assisting in procedures, acting as surgical first assists, ordering/interpreting tests, prescribing medications, and developing care plans.



In pursuit of and love for new experiences?

- As a PA, enjoy lateral mobility—switch specialties without additional training!
- PAs can be employed in over 60 different specialties!





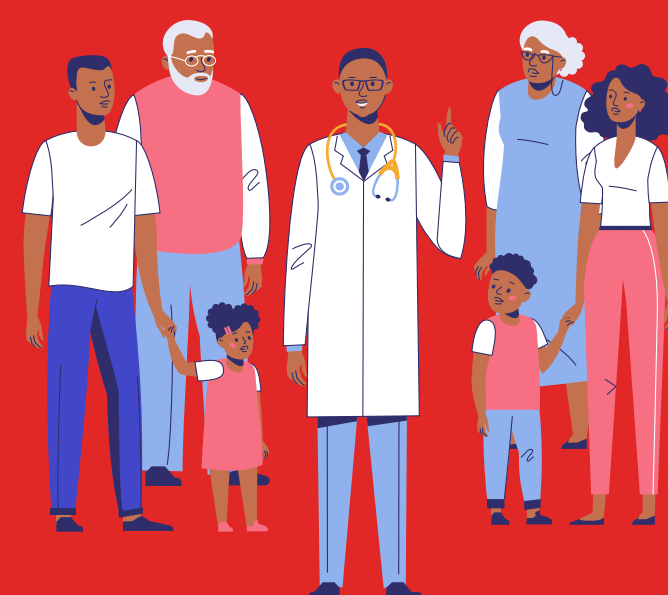
# Popular and common specialties you may find yourself working in as a PA!

(NCCPA, 2022)



## 1. Primary Care

- Primary Care PAs help serve as the foundation of the healthcare system. They offer care to numerous patients and are often the first point of contact for individuals seeking medical attention.<sup>1</sup>



## 2. Family Medicine

- PAs provide care for family members of all ages throughout their life cycle. These practitioners can serve as the first point of contact for all health concerns.<sup>2</sup>

## 3. Emergency Medicine



- Work in hospital emergency rooms assessing and treating a wide range of conditions and presentations!



## 4. Orthopedic Surgery

- Orthopedic PAs help diagnose and treat musculoskeletal injuries using non-surgical methods and serve as surgical first assistants during surgical treatment.<sup>3</sup>

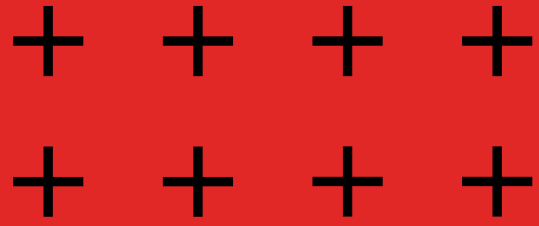


## 5. Dermatology

- Diagnose and treat disorders of the skin, utilize both simple surgical and non-surgical methods to address various pathologies.<sup>4</sup>







## 6. Internal Medicine

- Internal Medicine PAs focus on evaluating, diagnosing, and treating complex and acute conditions in adults, collaborating with physicians and other healthcare professionals.<sup>5</sup>

## 7. Hospital Medicine

- As a PA, you will join a multidisciplinary team that meets the complex needs of patients admitted to the hospital using non-surgical methods.<sup>5</sup>

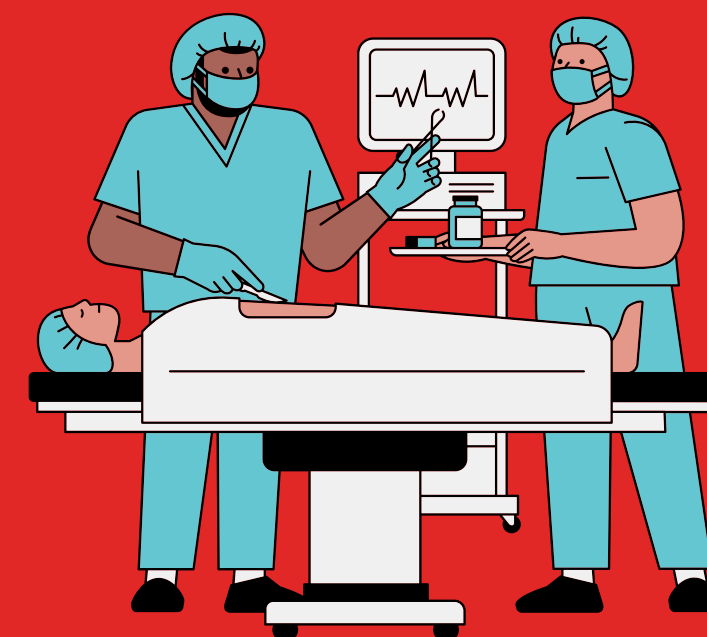


## 8. Vascular Surgery

- As a Vascular Surgery PA, one will perform pre-operative assessments and act as a surgical first assistant for surgeries related to the blood vessels. Finally, PAs will provide post-operative care for patients.<sup>6</sup>

## 9. General Surgery

- As a General Surgery PA, one provides pre-operative assessments, assists during various surgeries as the first surgical assistant, and offers post-operative care.<sup>6</sup>



## 10. Cardiology

- PAs in Cardiology will assess, diagnose, treat, and provide follow-up care to patients with heart pathologies. Additionally, PAs will assist Cardiologists with advanced treatment methods.<sup>7</sup>



Ready to take  
the next step?

