

JOB DESCRIPTION

Neurosurgery Physician Assistant

DEPARTMENT:

Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery

HOSPITAL:

Hamilton Health Sciences, General Site

SUPERVISION :

Dr. Naresh Murty, Chief of Neurosurgery; 905-527-4322 ext 46750

Email: murtynar@hhsc.ca

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Must hold US or Canadian BSc (PA) or equivalent degree
- Must be certified by either the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants (in the US) or the Physician Assistant Certification Council of Canada
- Must meet the competencies outlined by the province in the Defining the Physician Assistant Role in Ontario (<http://www.healthforceontario.ca/UserFiles/file/AHP/Inside/PA-role-april-2007-en.pdf>).

SUPERVISION:

- The hospital will ensure that the PA functions under the direction of a supervising neurosurgeon at all times.

TRAINING:

- The Neurosurgery PA will receive additional training (at least three months) before beginning their practice.

ROLE:

Under the direction and supervision of a neurosurgeon, and in accordance with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario's policy on delegation, the Neurosurgery Physician Assistant (PA) provides medical care to patients based on mutually agreed upon guidelines.

The role may include:

- a) Support emergency and access to care: Participate in the on-call schedule.
- b) Support admission to care: Perform comprehensive and problem-focused histories and physical examinations; perform appropriate laboratory and diagnostic studies, for both cranial and spine patient populations.
- c) Support inpatient care: Assist with surgical procedures in operating room; perform minor procedures on the unit; conduct daily hospital rounds; evaluate post-operative patients; handle discharge planning for both cranial and spine patient populations.
- d) Support continuum of care: Perform neurosurgery patient screening- cranial and spine patient populations; facilitate patient referral to the appropriate physician or agency; and conduct follow-up visits on patients.
- e) Office Duties: Returning phone calls from patients, handling prescription refills.

SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Direct Patient Care:

When/as directed by a neurosurgeon, the neurosurgery PA will:

- Conduct complete clinical histories of cranial and spine patients and formulate treatment plans
- Presenting complaint or reason for admission.
- History of present illness.
- Patient's past surgical history and past hospital admissions.
- Social history including marital status, sexual orientation, employment and occupation.
- Significant family medical history.
- Medications and allergies.
- Conduct physical assessments and interpret findings of the :
 - Comprehensive review of systems documenting problems involving head and neck; chest; abdomen; musculoskeletal system and skin as related to neurosurgical cases.
 - Utilize primary and secondary assessment results to formulate a differential diagnosis and determine if further clinical investigation is required.
 - Complete comprehensive documentation and findings for attending neurosurgeon;
 - Order and complete preliminary interpretation of diagnostic tests;
 - Perform some diagnostic procedures relevant to neurosurgery;
 - Implement some minor interventions/procedures
 - Monitor patient progress and response to treatment.

Communication and Documentation:

When/as directed by a neurosurgeon:

- Provide relevant information and explanations, including a proposed treatment plan, to the supervising physician and seek further direction where appropriate.
- Provide education to patients, families and other health providers as appropriate to the clinical setting. Communicate with other members of the health care team and other hospital departments, both orally, in writing and electronically.
- Maintain clear, accurate and appropriate records of the patient encounter and management plan, including:
 - Admission notes, progress notes and discharge notes as needed.
 - Dictated records as appropriate.
 - Consultation requests.
 - Other types of documentation as required.