



# New Mexico State Personnel Office

2600 Cerrillos Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-0127

## Classification Description

### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Class Title	Class Code	Pay Band	Alt Pay Band*
Physician Assistant	K10701	70	85

\*In accordance with SPB Rule 1.7.4.10 NMAC, the assignment to alternative pay bands shall be reviewed annually to determine their appropriateness.

### Occupation Description

Incumbents in this classification are clinicians who are licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of physicians and surgeons.

### Nature of Work

Physician assistants (PAs) practice medicine under the supervision of physicians and surgeons. PAs are formally trained to provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive healthcare services, as delegated by a physician. Working as members of a healthcare team, they take medical histories, examine and treat patients, order and interpret laboratory tests and x-rays, and make diagnoses. They also treat minor injuries by suturing, splinting, and casting. PAs record progress notes, instruct and counsel patients, and order or carry out therapy. Physician assistants also may prescribe certain medications. In some establishments, a PA is responsible for managerial duties, such as ordering medical supplies or equipment and supervising medical technicians and assistants.

### Distinguishing Characteristics of Levels

*Note: Examples of Work are intended to be cumulative for each progressively higher level of work. The omission of specific statements does not preclude management from assigning other duties which are reasonably within the scope of the duties.*

- Take medical histories and perform physical examinations, utilize diagnostic techniques, such as observation, palpation, percussion or auscultation; evaluate physical signs, symptoms and medical history to assess patient's physical condition.
- Order and interpret laboratory tests and radiological examinations.
- Recognize and evaluate patients who require the immediate attention of a physician and, when necessary, initiate, without supervision, emergency medical treatments.
- Assist in major invasive procedures and surgical operations.
- Perform minor surgical procedures.
- Perform laboratory and therapeutic procedures, including nasogastric intubation, obtain cultures, perform and reads skin tests, take EKG tracings, debride superficial wounds, administer subcutaneous local anesthesia (excluding nerve blocks), perform pulmonary function tests, and apply tractions.
- Administer treatments and medications prescribed by physicians.
- Instruct and counsel patients in matters pertaining to their physical and mental health.
- Maintain and sign medical records pertaining to treatments and examinations administered.

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### Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance\*

Graduation from a Physician Assistant program accredited by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA of the American Medical Association or its successor agency) and hold current NCCPA Certification.

### Minimum Requirements

Graduation from a Physician Assistant program accredited by the Committee on Allied Health Education and Accreditation (CAHEA of the American Medical Association or its successor agency) and hold current NCCPA Certification.

### Knowledge and Skills

*Note: This information has been produced by compiling information and documentation provided by O\*NET. O\*NET™ is a trademark of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.*

### Knowledge

**Medicine and Dentistry** — Knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.

**Biology** — Knowledge of plant and animal organisms, their tissues, cells, functions, interdependencies, and interactions with each other and the environment.

**Psychology** — Knowledge of human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.

**Customer and Personal Service** — Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.

**English Language** — Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.

**Therapy and Counseling** — Knowledge of principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance.

**Chemistry** — Knowledge of the chemical composition, structure, and properties of substances and of the chemical processes and transformations that they undergo. This includes uses of chemicals and their interactions, danger signs, production techniques, and disposal methods.

**Sociology and Anthropology** — Knowledge of group behavior and dynamics, societal trends and influences, human migrations, ethnicity, cultures and their history and origins.

**Education and Training** — Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.

**Mathematics** — Knowledge of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.

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### Skills

**Active Listening** — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.

**Critical Thinking** — Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

**Speaking** — Talking to others to convey information effectively.

**Reading Comprehension** — Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.

**Judgment and Decision Making** — Considering the relative costs and benefits of potential actions to choose the most appropriate one.

**Monitoring** — Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

**Social Perceptiveness** — Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.

**Science** — Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.

**Service Orientation** — Actively looking for ways to help people.

**Complex Problem Solving** — Identifying complex problems and reviewing related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.

**Statutory Requirements:** Must be licensed pursuant to the **Medical Practice Act, Sections 61-6-1 through 61-6-35 NMSA 1978.**

**Conditions of Employment:** Working Conditions for individual positions in this classification will vary based on each *agency's utilization, essential functions, and the recruitment needs* at the time a vacancy is posted. All requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities.

**Default FLSA Status:** Exempt. FLSA status may be determined to be different at the agency level based on the agency's utilization of the position.

**Bargaining Unit:** This position may be covered by a collective bargaining agreement and all terms/conditions of that agreement apply and must be adhered to.

**Established:** 07/07/2001

**Revised:** 9/20/2011

*Note: Adapted from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and are intended to illustrate the typical education and experience required for this occupation.*

*Note: Classification description subject to change. Please refer to the SPO website [www.spo.state.nm.us](http://www.spo.state.nm.us) to ensure this represents the most current copy of the description.*