



OTRF Physician Assistant Residency Program

Description and Curriculum

The Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine Teaching and Research Foundation (OTRF) Residency Program for physician assistants is an educational curriculum that prepares physician assistants for careers in clinical orthopaedic settings. This 13-month program allows physician assistants to expand their education, improve their clinical evaluation skills, increase their knowledge as a healthcare provider and interact with orthopaedic surgeons. Other opportunities include assisting in surgery, conducting research, educating patients and participating in educational conferences for medical professionals.

Program Goals

- To expose the physician assistant to a stimulating and fast paced orthopaedics and sports medicine clinical practice
- To provide the physician assistant a continuing educational experience that includes hands-on clinical patient interaction under the supervision of an orthopaedic surgeon board certified in sports medicine.
- To broaden the physician assistant's knowledge base concerning the diagnosis and management of musculoskeletal injuries and conditions
- To provide an opportunity for the physician assistant to advance his or her clinical skills including: history taking, physical examination, interpretation of radiographic and other ancillary studies, diagnosis, surgical indications, clinical decision making, medical management of surgical patients, non-operative management, proper documentation, case presentation, DME application, casting and splinting, wound care, patient education, coding and billing, surgical assisting, etc.
- To foster and strengthen the orthopaedic surgeon-physician assistant relationship, ultimately providing better care for active members of our communities
- To prepare the physician assistant for additional career opportunities in an orthopaedic clinical setting

Learning Objectives

- To become proficient at eliciting a proper problem-focused patient history
- To increase skills in performing problem-focused musculoskeletal physical examinations of the entire human anatomy
- To understand the indications for and basic interpretation of radiographs, MRI and CT
- To become proficient at diagnosis and clinical decision making
- To gain a better understanding of surgical indications, associated complications and postoperative care
- To develop clinical skills including, but not limited to, perioperative wound care, DME application and casting/splinting



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- To become proficient in proper documentation and clinical coding
- To become proficient in presenting cases and communicating with physicians to facilitate patient care
- To increase effective patient communication and education skills
- To develop operating room experience and surgical assist skills

Physician Assistant Requirements and Eligibility

- A commitment to provide excellent patient care serving as an extension of the physician in the clinical setting
- A strong desire to learn and develop skills within the field of orthopaedic surgery and sports medicine
- An ability to uphold and maintain the highest standards of professionalism
- Capable of maintaining all codes of professional conduct, including protection of patient information
- A strong desire to be a member of a multidisciplinary sports medicine team
- Successful completion of an ARC-PA Accredited Physician Assistant Education Program
- NCCPA certification
- Physician assistant licensure in the State of Illinois
- CPR certification

Physician Assistant Responsibilities and Core Competencies

Under the direction of the supervising physician, the Resident Physician assistant will be held accountable for:

- Maintaining professionalism and the ability to successfully interact with physicians and patients
- Rooming patients
- Taking a thorough patient history
- Physical examination skills to complete musculoskeletal system assessment
- Radiographic interpretation skills to develop a working diagnosis and treatment plan
- Organization of all clinically relevant information such as studies, films, medical records, etc.
- Case presentation skills to succinctly inform the supervising Physician about the patient's history, physical exam, pertinent test results, working diagnosis and a suggested treatment plan
- Proper initiation of the final treatment plan determined by the physician
- Ordering of X-rays, MRIs, CT scans and other diagnostic tests or labs
- Removal of sutures and staples and management of post-operative wound care
- Fitting casts, braces and other assistive devices
- Instructing patients on gait training or therapeutic exercises
- Providing patients with post-visit educational materials
- Educating/instructing patients



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- Management of clinic flow, paperwork and chart management, EMR documentation and coding for patient visits
- Assist in surgery including positioning, prepping and draping patients, checking equipment setup, retracting tissue, directing the arthroscopic camera, holding instruments, closing wounds, applying post-operative dressings, immobilization and splints, preparing surgical grafts, and other related duties
- Surgical documentation with video and photographs for teaching and/or research purposes
- Post-operative education and instructions to family members
- Maintaining satisfactory clinical evaluation scores that measure learning growth, responsibility and professionalism through the duration of the program
- If applicable, renewal and/or initial membership in state/national professional associations

Physician Responsibilities

- Educate and mentor the physician assistant so he or she may master the above skills and competencies
- Uphold and abide by the highest standards of professionalism
- Supervise all actions of the physician assistant to ensure a proper standard of care
- Be receptive to questions from the physician assistant resident and be willing to explain the thought process behind patient diagnosis and treatment plan development
- Teach the physician assistant how to interpret diagnostic tests and labs
- Communicates on a daily basis with the physician assistant as to his or her clinical performance
- Complete quarterly evaluation forms and clinical competency checklists

Residency Retention and Completion Policy

To receive a certificate of completion for the OTRF Physician Assistant Residency Program, residents must participate fully in all clinical and didactic experiences for the 13-month period and maintain satisfactory clinical evaluation scores demonstrating appropriate learning, engagement and professionalism during the program.

Residency Program Features and Benefits

- A \$50,000 stipend with paid healthcare, dental, vision, life and short-term disability insurance
- Up to 10 paid vacation days in addition to paid regular holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Memorial Day and Fourth of July). Vacation requests must be submitted at least six weeks in advance to allow for clinic and OR schedule coverage.
- Three paid sick days.
- Reimbursement for Illinois State licensure fees and travel between work sites.
- Musculoskeletal radiology training
- Surgical assist training
- Weekly sports medicine conferences



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Educational Programs

Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Conference—Westmont office

A weekly, Friday morning conference moderated by the program physician. Physician assistant residents attend presentations covering clinical practice cases, journal review articles, and orthopaedic topics of interest. Residents receive CME credits for their attendance.

Application Process

Download, print and complete the Physician Assistant Residency Program application available at otrfund.org/. Send the completed application along with the following items:

- Resume/curriculum vitae
- Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation
- Proof of certification with NCCPA or scheduling receipt documenting date of test prior to May of the application cycle
- Proof of Illinois licensure or copy of completed application forms
- Proof of CPR certification

Send your completed application, required documents and materials to:

OTRF Physician Assistant Residency Program
c/o Dr. Steven Chudik
1010 Executive Court, Suite 250
Westmont, IL 60559

Please direct all questions to our email, contactus@chudikmd.com

Applications are accepted for the OTRF Physician Assistant Residency Program between March 1 and April 15, prior to the Residency start date on May 1.

All materials must arrive by the due date. Incomplete submissions will be discarded.