



Adair County
Health System
we surround you with care

What is a Physician Assistant (PA)?

A Physician Assistant is a health care professional licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. As part of their comprehensive responsibilities, PA's conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel on preventive health care, assist in surgery, and in virtually all states can write prescriptions.

In general, a physician assistant will see many of the same types of patients as the physician. The cases handled by physicians are generally the more complicated medical cases or those cases which require care that is not routine part of the PA's scope of work. PA's are taught to "know their limits" and refer to physicians appropriately. It is an important part of PA training.

What is a Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)?

Family Nurse Practitioners are primary health care providers who focus on health promotion and prevention. Nurse Practitioners services include comprehensive history and physical exams, well-child exams, immunizations, family planning, prenatal care, preventive screening, and diagnosing and treating acute and chronic health care concerns. ARNP's manage patient care by ordering lab tests, x-rays, prescribing medication.