

## SCOPE OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES

### DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

LAST UPDATED 28 JULY 2010

#### MEDICAL (M-S) AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDENTS (PA-S)

1. Medical-S and PA-S rotating through the Womack Army Medical Center DOM are expected to take histories perform physical examinations and record their histories and physical exams on appropriate forms in medical records.
2. Medical-S and PA-S are expected to learn about patient management, review charts, participates in rounds and attends seminars and lectures.
3. After instruction at Womack Army Medical Center by a staff physician, resident, intern or registered nurse and after having demonstrated competence, Medical-S and PA-S may I independently:
  - a. Perform venipuncture.
  - b. Place Foley Catheters (Patients of opposite sex require chaperones).
  - c. Engage in endotracheal suctioning.
  - d. Start IV's.
  - e. Start NG tubes.

**When and if, and only when and if, the student has been instructed to perform such procedures on a patient by a staff physician, resident, intern or registered nurse. Students should be encouraged to learn and perform the above procedures.**

4. After instruction at Womack Army Medical Center by a staff physician, resident or intern and after having demonstrated competence, Medical-S and PA-S may perform arterial puncture for blood gas determination. May perform procedure only under the direct visual supervision of a staff physician, resident or intern and when directed to perform such arterial puncture by a staff physician, resident or intern.
5. After instruction at Womack Army Medical Center by a staff physician or resident (not an intern), and after having demonstrated competence, Medical-S and PA-S may perform lumbar puncture (spinal taps), paracentesis, and thoracentesis. May perform procedure only under the direct visual supervision (at all times) of a staff physician or resident (not an intern), and only when directed to perform such lumbar puncture (spinal tap), paracentesis, or thoracentesis, by a staff physician or resident (not an intern).
6. After instruction at Womack Army Medical Center by a staff physician or resident (not an intern), and after having demonstrated competence, Medical-S and PA-S may perform incision and drainage of abscesses and suturing of minor lacerations, but only under the direct visual supervision of a staff physician or resident (not an intern) and only when directed to perform such I & D or suturing by a staff physician or resident (not an intern).
7. After instructions at WAMC by a staff physician, resident or intern and after having demonstrated competence Medical-S and PA-S may place IPPD TB and other skin tests as

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necessary, without direct supervision by physicians, but only when instructed to place such skin tests by physicians.

8. Medical-S and PA-S certified in basic cardiac life support (BCLS) might perform BCLS on an emergent basis when required.

9. No other procedure, including but not limited to arthrocentesis, biopsy of any kind, bone marrow aspiration, endotracheal intubation, endoscopy of any type, chemotherapy, et cetera, may be performed by a medical or physician's assistant student at any time unless prior special arrangements is specifically made with the Chief, Department of Medicine, or Internal Medicine Service.

10. Under no circumstances is a Medical-S and PA-S to be supervised in the performance of any procedure by a physician assistant, another Medical-S and PA-S.

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**Student**

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**Date**