

**Weill Cornell Medical College
Physician Assistant Program**

Competencies Expected at Graduation

The following is a list of functions and tasks that all graduates of the Weill Cornell Medical College Physician Assistant Program are expected to be able to perform upon graduation, while clinically practicing as a Physician Assistant:

- A. Perform the following **basic medical skills**:
1. Perform a detailed and accurate history and physical examination (including rectal and pelvic examinations where appropriate).
 2. Initiate laboratory, radiologic and special examination procedures as appropriate for the evaluation of illness.
 3. Initiate appropriate treatment based upon the presenting diagnosis.
 4. Instruct patients regarding therapy in a comprehensive and thorough fashion.
 5. Record appropriate information including progress notes in the medical record.
 6. Obtain review and counter-signature of the supervising physician on all medical records.
 7. Write admission and/or other orders (including medications) while at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Cornell Campus and/or other affiliate where permitted. Obtain review and counter-signature of the supervising physician.
- B. Perform the following **functions in the operation room**:
1. Prepare and drape the patient prior to surgery.
 2. Serve as an assistant to the surgeon during surgical procedures
 3. Assist in closure of surgical wounds
- C. Perform the following **diagnostic and therapeutic procedures**:
1. Evaluate and direct treatment on non-life threatening, well-defined conditions and initiate the evaluations of less well-defined or emergency conditions.
 2. Endotracheal intubation, insertion of an oral airway, suctioning and use of bag-valve-mask ventilation devices, application of oxygen therapy.

3. Venipuncture, arterial puncture, intravenous catheterization with fluid therapy, venous cutdown
4. Intradermal, subcutaneous and intra-muscular injections and administration of medications in accordance with state and institutional guidelines
5. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation including defibrillation and/or synchronized cardioversion. Perform and interpret electrocardiograms.
6. Fracture immobilization including application and/or removal of plaster casts.
7. Gastrointestinal intubation (nasogastric tube insertion).
8. Urethral catheterization in males and females.
9. Thoracentesis and chest tube insertion for pleural effusion, pneumothorax or as appropriate during the emergency treatment of traumatic injuries.
10. Wound care and suturing techniques.
11. Check and transfuse banked blood products according to state and institutional protocols.
12. Lumbar puncture
13. Paracentesis and peritoneal lavage procedures
14. Central venous catheter insertion via subclavian, internal jugular and femoral vein approaches
15. Assist in endoscopy procedures such as sigmoidoscopy