



Canada's Physician Assistant Historical Timeline

1980: Mr. Jan Drutz, PA-C, a Canadian graduate of *Kettering College of Medical Arts* begins work in Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery at the University of Alberta Hospitals in Edmonton, Alberta, where he worked from 1980-1994.

1984: Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) adopts "Physician Assistant" (PA) role for senior medics bringing PAs to the attention of physicians across Canada.

1991: CAF Specialty title 6B Med A officially changed to Physician Assistant.

1997-1999: Senior CAF PAs lobby to form a new national professional association seeking the support of the Canadian Armed Forces.

1999: November at the Canadian (Armed) Forces Base Borden, the Canadian Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA) is officially established with donations from members of the CAF.

1999: Manitoba enacts legislation regulating PAs and identifies profession as "Clinical Assistants - Certified". In 2009 changes to the Manitoba Medical Act establishes a separate Physician Assistant Registry and protects title.

2001: CAPA, with the help of the CAF, develops the Occupational Competency Profile for civilian PAs in Canada.

2001: Formation of the Physician Assistant Certification Council (PACC) takes place on October 15th.

2001: October 18th and 19th, the inaugural CAPA Conference is held in Halifax

2002: CAF launches a re-designed (two-year) Physician Assistant Education Program.

2003: Canada's first civilian licensed PA begins practice in Manitoba's Cardiac Sciences at St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

2003: 1st National PA Symposium hosted jointly by Canadian Medical Association (CMA)/CAF Health Services.

2003: Physician Assistant Certification Council (PACC) establishes National Entry to Practice Certification Exam and the Canadian Certified Physician Assistant credential. First exam held in 2005.

2003: The Canadian Academy of Physician Assistants becomes the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA) to align with the Federal Government Treasury Board requirements.

2003: The CMA recognizes PAs as a health profession paving the way for an accreditation process for PA education programs in Canada.

2003: CAPA joins the CMA Conjoint Accreditation Services as a National Accreditation Sponsor in December.

2004: The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba license five additional PAs for employment with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

2004: The CAF graduates the first class of PAs from their two-year curriculum.

2004: The CMA Conjoint Accreditation Services grants the first accreditation status to the CAF Health Services PA education program.

2005: Canadian Certified Physician Assistants policies and processes are approved and the 1st certification exam is held. The National Entry to Practice Certification Exam confirms the national standard of quality and professionalism of Canadian PAs.

2005: The Government of Manitoba forms Working Group to develop a Manitoba Physician Assistant Education Program.

2006: The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) announces the inclusion of PAs in Ontario's provincial health care system.

2007: Ontario MOHLTC employs five PAs in five separate emergency departments. Later expansion sees the implementation of PA Demonstration Pilot projects including the International Medical Graduate-PA Integration Program (PAIP).

2008: September the University of Manitoba and McMaster University launch the first two Canadian civilian PA programs.

2009: June the University of Nebraska Medical Centre recognizes the CAF-PA program and awards a Bachelor degree.

2009: New Brunswick develops legislation for PA employment, employing two PAs in Fredericton's Dr Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital's emergency department.

2009: Minister of Health requests that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta include PAs in the Health Professions Act as a regulated health profession and to develop a registry for PAs which became a voluntary registry under the College.

2010: January Transfer of Treasury Funds

2010: The Consortium of PA Education launches Canada's fourth PA education program in Ontario. The Consortium of PA Education is a partnership between the University of Toronto, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and the Michener Institute of Applied Sciences at UHN.

2010: CAPA works with the CMA to produce a National PA toolkit.

2010: CAPA undertakes and publishes the first national survey of PAs.

2010: 65 new PA graduates of the CAF, and now the University of Manitoba and McMaster University enter the profession.

2010: College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta releases voluntary registration criteria for PA in the province.

2010: On November 27, CAPA incorporated as a civilian agency, developing a National Office separate from CAF oversight, but forever grateful for the support provided. November 27th becomes National PA Day recognizing PAs across Canada annually.

2010: The Physician Assistant Certification Council announces the creation of a new logo and is renamed to the Physician Assistant Certification Council of Canada (PACCC).

2011: CAPA enters into a relationship with the College of Family Physicians of Canada for the purpose of the maintenance of certification and the tracking of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit hours.

2011: The Minister of Health formally invites CAPA to submit an application for regulation of the PA profession in Ontario.

2012: The Health Profession Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) reviews the application for regulation of the profession in Ontario and undertakes a process involving stakeholder feedback.

2012: HPRAC recommends establishing a compulsory registry under the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario for PAs practising in the province, recommending against regulation. HPRAC states PAs practising in Ontario do not meet “the risk of harm threshold for public safety” due to the oversight of physician supervision.

2013: Alberta Health Services with the support of the Minister of Health launches a PA Demonstration Project. PAs are employed in rural primary care, and in urban hospital settings including surgery, internal medicine and obstetrics.

2013: CAPA submits an application for regulation of the profession to Minister of Health in Alberta.

2014: The Alberta Minister of Health supports regulating the PA profession in the province under the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and instructs the college to draft legislation and amendments to the Health Professions Act to include PAs as a regulated profession.

2014: PAs are awarded prescriptive rights in New Brunswick.

2015: Formal review of CAPA’s National Competency Profile for PAs in Canada occurs to reflect the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada’s new CanMEDS framework and is renamed CanMEDS-PA.

2016: The Canadian Medical Association’s Conjoint Accreditation Services announces it will no longer accredit allied health profession programs as of February 2018. CAPA and the PA education institutions establish a working group to develop a new accreditation structure.

2016: PAs in the CAF are commissioned to Officer Status.

2016: CAPA enters into a new relationship with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for the maintenance of certification and the tracking of CPD credit hours.

2016: CAPA commissions the Conference Board of Canada to undertake research on the Value of PAs in Canadian Health Care. Reports are published in 2016 and 2017 paving the way for advocacy across the country.