

# Physician Assistant, Emergency Department

## Opportunity Brief



# About Nova Scotia Health

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**Mission:** To achieve excellence in health, healing and learning through working together  
**Vision:** Healthy people, healthy communities - for generations  
**Values:** Respect, integrity, innovation, courage, accountability



**Nova Scotia Health (NSH) is the largest provincial health authority in the Maritimes** providing health services to Nova Scotians, along with specialized health services to Atlantic Canadians. We operate hospitals, health centers and community-based programs across the province.

Our team of health professionals includes employees, doctors, researchers, learners and volunteers that provide the health care or services you may need.

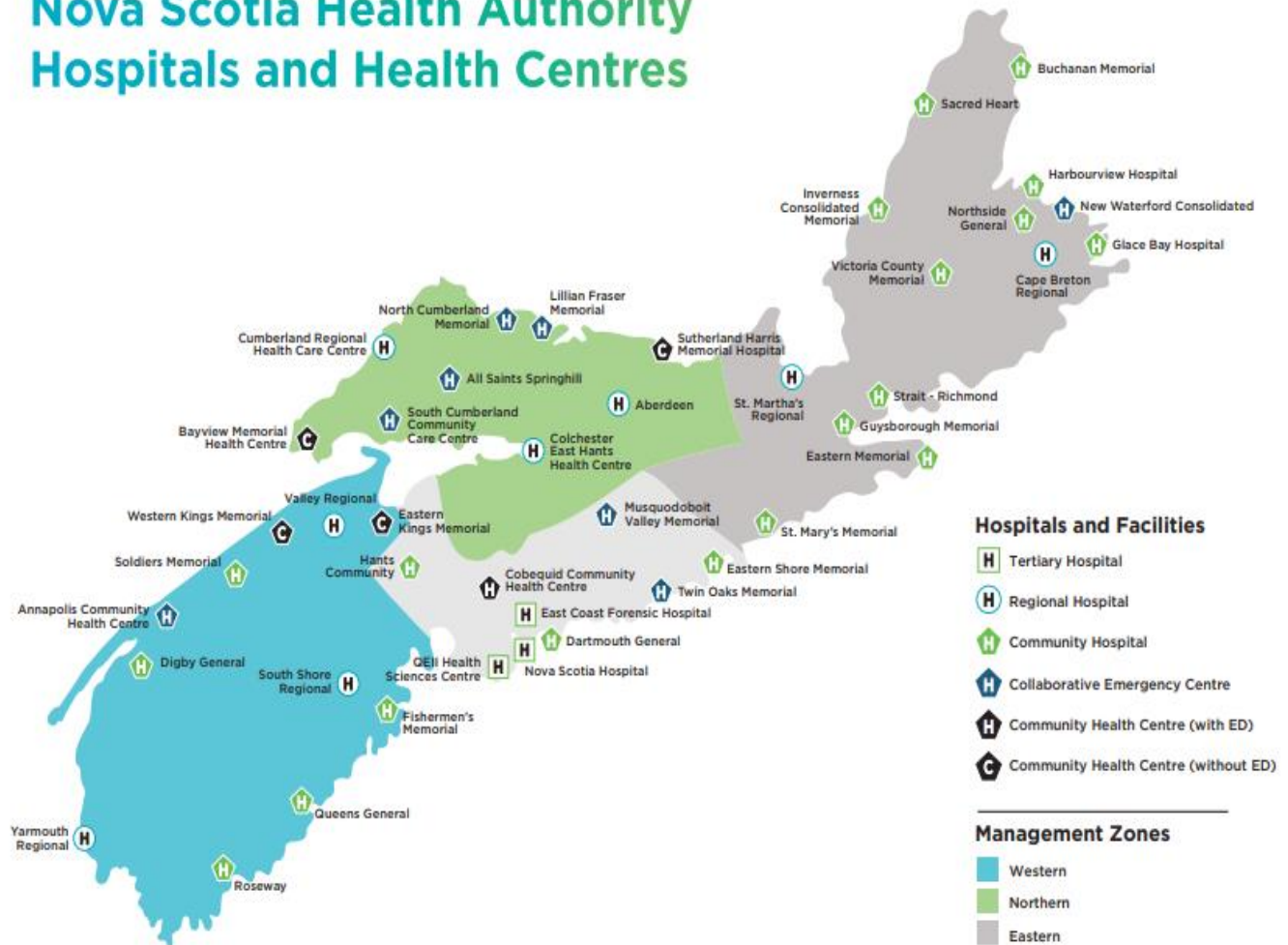


**Partnerships are important to us.** We work in partnership with community groups, schools, governments, foundations and auxiliaries and community health boards. We work together to provide the best care possible for patients, families and employees.

Whether we are hosting wellness programs in the community, conducting innovative research in labs, or helping a patient recover in hospital; we are creating a healthier Nova Scotia.

# Areas of Service

## Nova Scotia Health Authority Hospitals and Health Centres



Nova Scotia Health (NSH) operates hospitals, health centers, and community-based programs with over 40 facilities covering every region in Nova Scotia. Our team includes employees, physicians, researchers, and volunteers who work together to provide a full range of health care services.

**Check out the below links to learn more about our facilities, zones and communities:**

[Facility Profiles](#)

[Central Zone \(Halifax Regional Municipality, Eastern Shore and West Hants areas\)](#)

[Western Zone \(Annapolis Valley, South West and South Shore areas\)](#)

[Northern Zone \(Colchester, Cumberland and Pictou County\)](#)

[Eastern Zone \(Cape Breton, Antigonish and Guysborough areas\)](#)

# Why Choose Nova Scotia

Lunenburg, Western Zone



## OUTDOORS

Nova Scotia offers four seasons of outdoor adventure. Kayak or hike along our coastline, snowshoe our trails, or dust off that bike and explore the trailways that connect our province. There is no shortage of outdoor fun!

Cabot Trail, Eastern Zone



## COASTLINE

In Nova Scotia, you're never more than 30 minutes from the ocean. With approximately 7500 kilometers of coastline, beaches, coastal trails, and incredible paddling are all right outside your door and waiting to be explored.

Halifax, Central Zone



## INDUSTRY & CULTURE

Just under one million people enjoy what Nova Scotia has to offer. From historical sites, wineries, award winning restaurants and a thriving arts and culture scene, Nova Scotia really does have it all.

Pictou, Northern Zone



## REAL ESTATE

Nova Scotia is among the most affordable places to live in Canada. According to the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA), the average price of a home was \$368,476 compared to the national average of \$720,854(Nov 2021).

Check out our 'Locations' page for more detailed information on our facilities, <http://www.nshealth.ca/locations> and <https://recruitment.nshealth.ca/place> for more information on the surrounding communities.

# Position Summary, Education & Experience Requirements

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## Program Portfolio Overview

Nova Scotia Health (NSH) provides sustainable safe and high quality health services that are accessible, people-centred, promote health and wellness and optimize the health of all Nova Scotians. This is accomplished across four geographic management zones which are responsible for the operation of acute care health centres and the provision of a variety of inpatient, outpatient services including academic, tertiary, quaternary care and community based programs and services including continuing care, primary health care, public health, and mental health and addictions.

The PA ensures that the principles and practices that guide NSH, IWK and Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) such as mission, vision, values, expected behaviours, the leadership philosophy, organizational health, population health, ethics, safety, quality, partnerships and interprofessional collaboration are integrated within the services they provide and through the messages they deliver.

## Position Overview

As a member of the team, the Physician Assistant (PA) reports to the Primary Supervising Emergency Room Physician and functions within a dynamic collaborative care team. Under the supervision of the physician, the PA will provide general medical care to patients in the emergency room setting, with a wide variety of acute conditions or chronic conditions, and traumatic injuries, of all severity/acuity. This position will offer the PA an opportunity to work to full scope of practice as outlined in the agreement between the emergency room physician group and the PA.

The PA works to provide assistance in the spectrum of care provided to emergency medicine patients as treated by the Division of Emergency Medicine. Chronologically according to patient presentation, the PA will assume the following responsibilities within the scope of his or her practice:

- Assessment and plans for treatment of in the emergency department,
- Ordering and interpreting investigations, including labs, xrays, CTs, etc,
- Workup, including documentation of care and management plan,
- Medical procedures, such as removal of foreign bodies, suturing, casting, and closed reductions
- Requests for consultation of sub-specialties
- Discharge orders, instructions and referral to outpatient services.
- Follow-up of urgent tests and investigations for discharged patients.



**Opportunities are currently available in our Emergency Departments at South Shore Regional Hospital in Bridgewater and Cumberland Regional Hospital in Amherst.**

## **Ideal Candidate Profile**

The ideal candidate will work with a strong interprofessional team who are passionate and caring about providing quality surgical care. You can work in a fast paced, changing environment and provide sound, evidence based advice for patient care. You will handle yourself in a calm, confident and reassuring manner that puts others at ease.

The Physician Assistants will work collaboratively with numerous internal and external stakeholders, such as

- Physicians
- Nurses
- Anaesthesia Assistants
- Porters
- Housekeeping
- Managers
- Procurement
- Learners from Dalhousie and affiliated learning centres

The ideal candidate will bring three to five years of professional experience to the role in a similar related academic health care environment. You have worked in an Emergency Room environment as well as inpatient and outpatient settings.

## **Education & Experience**

- Graduate of or currently enrolled in an accredited recognized Physician Assistant program
- Canadian Certified Physician Assistant (CCPA), granted by the Physician Assistants Certification Council of the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants
- Three to five years of professional experience in a similar related academic health care environment
- Experience in Emergency Departments is preferred
- The following certifications or willingness to obtain:
  - Certification in CTAS
  - Certification with Heart & Stroke in ACLS
  - PALS or equivalent
  - TNCC or equivalent
  - BLS/ACLS
- Demonstrated effective communication, interpersonal, organizational, patient assessment and telecommunications skills
- Competencies in other languages an asset, French preferred

# Specific Accountabilities

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## History & Physical Exam

The PA will obtain a comprehensive and relevant medical history and perform a comprehensive and relevant physical examination.

The history will include the following components:

- Presenting complaint or reason for admission
- History of present illness including treatments and responses to treatment
- Patient's past medical and surgical history and past hospital admissions
- Social and family medical history
- Review of systems
- And Medication reconciliation and allergies

The physical exam shall include the following components:

- Inspection
- Palpation
- Neurological
- Vascular
- ROM
- Special tests

## Documentation

The PA is responsible to record the findings of the history and physical examination in the History and Physical Section of the health care record. The history and physical examination findings and the written record will be reviewed with the Supervising Physician(s), Record diagnostic imaging findings, diagnosis and/or differential diagnosis, and treatment plan. They will record daily findings from in-patient rounds/review in the health care record and document all procedures in the patient's health care record according to date, time, details of the procedure performed and the disposition of samples derived from the procedure.

Transfer/Discharge Summary - Sending a transfer letter outlining the patients medical history and hospital course to referring institutions. They will facilitate discharge planning in cooperation with the Unit Manager, charge nurse, staff nurses and other individuals/resources as appropriate; perform all transfer/discharge orders, including prescriptions.

The PA will liaise with appropriate community resources for follow-up of discharged patients as appropriate, Document follow-up notes as appropriate on the patient's chart once the patient has been discharged or in follow-up to consults, Document death with a dictated death summary, and Document discussion with family after death around consent for autopsy and tissue/organ donation when indicated.

## Investigations

PA will have authority to order diagnostic tests and bloodwork through medical directives. They will order blood work, document results, and review results with the physicians. They will perform additional skills once assessed such as removing surgical drains, tubes, arterial lines. The PA will complete advanced assessments which adhere to the standards for completing a medical history and physical for all patients.

## Medications

Physician Assistants will have the authority to prescribe drugs to patients under the supervision of the Emergency Room Physician. They will follow a prescribed list of acceptable medications such as Tylenol, antiemetics, antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. *PAs cannot prescribe narcotics or controlled substances under any circumstance.*

## Management

Consultation - PA's will assist in the arrangement of consultations from the Attending Physician(s) with appropriate services including:

- Medical subspecialties
- Outpatient sub-specialty Assessment Clinics
- Surgical specialties
- Home Care
- Social Work
- Dietician
- Palliative care services
- Critical care services
- Pastoral Care
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Rehabilitation units
- Other services as appropriate

Follow-up - PAs will arrange the follow-up/transfer to appropriate services including:

- Out-patient clinics
- The patient's referring physician and/or family physician
- The referring institution
- Any other appropriate facilities

Referring Physician -PA's will assist in informing the referring physician and family physician about the progress of their patient while in the care of the primary supervisor(s).

Outpatient Clinic -PA's will have assigned duties related to the Surgery Service patients in the outpatient clinics as part of the follow-up clinic or as part of an emergency assessment for a new problem or exacerbation of a pre-existing problem.



## Continuing Education

Continuing Medical Education - PAs must maintain currency with the MainPro construct of the CFPC as per CAPA requirements

Rounds - PA's will be expected to attend and participate in specified educational rounds and other appropriate planned educational events to help maintain competence and update knowledge.

Reading - PA's will be expected to keep their knowledge base current through appropriate readings.

# Salary, Benefits & Hours of Work

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## Salary & Hours of Work

The compensation for this position ranges from \$43.9075 - \$58.3398 hourly (\$85,619 - \$113,762 annually), dependent on incumbent's previous education and experience. This is a permanent, full-time position; 75 hours biweekly.

## Benefits

Successful candidates are eligible for our benefits package which includes health, dental, travel, long term disability and life insurance coverage. We also offer a defined benefits pension plan as well as competitive vacation entitlement.

## Incentives

Successful candidates may be eligible for signing bonuses up to \$10,000 with a comprehensive return of service agreement. Relocation expenses up to \$5000 may also be offered under a return of service agreement.

## Other Information

Opportunities are currently available in our Emergency Departments at South Shore Regional Hospital in Bridgewater and Cumberland Regional Hospital in Amherst.

Nova Scotia Health is committed to being a workforce that is free of discrimination, values diversity and is representative, at all job levels, of the people we serve. Our priority groups are Indigenous People, African Nova Scotians, People of Colour, Persons with Disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+ and Immigrants. Members of these groups are welcome to apply and self-identify if they wish to be considered under our Employment Equity policy.

As per the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Protocol in High-Risk Settings, Nova Scotia Health requires all team members to be fully vaccinated by November 30th, 2021.