



MINISTER OF HEALTH

Room 302
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

November 27, 2013

Today, we mark National Physician Assistant Day in Manitoba.

Physician assistants work with physicians and are trained to perform a wide range of services, including conducting patient exams, ordering diagnostic tests, undertaking minor procedures and prescribing needed medications and treatments. Physician assistants work in a wide variety of areas across Manitoba's health care system, including primary care, emergency medicine, general surgery, neurosurgery, rehabilitation, internal medicine, cardiac surgery and vascular surgery.

Manitoba has been a leader in developing educational opportunities for physician assistants, and these highly skilled health care professionals make a significant difference in how care is provided. They are helping to improve access to health care services for Manitoba families by providing quality care and allowing physicians to focus on more complex patient needs.

Every year, up to 12 candidates are accepted into the University of Manitoba's first-in-Canada Physician Assistant Education Program, a 2-year Faculty of Medicine graduate program that includes learning in clinical settings, as well as the classroom.

All 12 graduates of the University of Manitoba's 2013 Physician Assistant Education Program will obtain employment in Manitoba's health care system. Our government has created new physician assistant positions this year to ensure more timely access to team-based care for Manitoba families. This will allow more physician assistants to join Manitoba's health care teams, helping patients access the care they need more quickly.

I want to thank these dedicated health care professionals for the work they do to make our health care system stronger and more responsive to the needs of Manitoba residents. We are committed to continuing our support, and I look forward to welcoming more physician assistants to Manitoba's health care teams.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Erin Selby