

Title:	Physician Assistant - Ordering X-Rays, Diagnostic Ultrasounds and ECG's for CKHA Mental Health and Addictions Program Patients(Medical Directive #3)	Policy Number: MHAP #1-280
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Chatham-Kent Health Alliance embraces a philosophy of Patient and Family-Centred Care; the values and beliefs of which enable and support partnerships of patients, families, and their healthcare providers. The ultimate goal is to provide quality, safe care for patients and families in an environment of respect and trust for all partners.

POLICY:

1. Description of Procedure:

The Physician Assistant (PA), on the authority of this medical directive, may order:

- a) specific x-ray procedures of the head, chest, the ribs, the arm, the wrist, the hand, the leg, the ankle or foot of a human being;
- b) diagnostic ultrasound of the abdomen, pelvis and breast including obstetrical ultrasounds. The Medical Radiation Technologist (Radiation) (MRTR) may perform the procedures authorized by this directive;
- c) the PA may also order ECGs in a non-urgent or non-acute circumstance to be interpreted by a qualified professional.

2. Authorized To:

Physician Assistant, who is employed in the Mental Health and Addictions Program of the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance.

3. Authorized From:

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario Policy Statement #5-12 Delegation of Controlled Act Procedures 2007

The Chief of Psychiatry will authorize these diagnostic tests.

4. Pre-existing Criteria:

Informed consent must be given by patient/substitute decision maker and documented

Assessment of patient's status including:

- a) Review results of previous x-ray procedures performed at CKHA or external facilities;
- b) Possibility of pregnancy;
- c) The patient has a condition which can be diagnosed or monitored with x-ray;
- d) To screen for disease.

5. Contraindications:

- a) Pregnancy;
- b) A premenopausal female patient is not within the first 10 days following onset of menses;
- c) A patient who has received radiation therapy should be referred to a physician for assessment.

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6. Educational Requirements:

- The PA will have the Completed an accredited PA program in Canada or the US
- The PA will be Certified through PACCC (Physician Assistant Certification Council of Canada) for Canadian educated/trained PAs which gives the certification of **CCPA** (Canadian Certified Physician Assistant) or Certified through NCCPA (National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants) for American educated/trained PAs which gives the certification **PA-C** (Physician Assistant Certified) and have previous clinical experience in a primary care setting with individuals and families.

7. Reporting/Recording:

The PA will ensure that all required consents and/or treatment orders are in place and documented. Diagnostic orders are written in accordance with all provincial/federal legislation and CKHA policies, procedures and guidelines for ordering diagnostic procedures. The radiologist interprets the film and reports the results. The PA documents, on the patient's chart, having reviewed the results and any actions taken subsequent to those results.

The requisition used for the implementation of orders completed by the PA must quote the Medical Directive under which the order is authorized and will include:

- a) The standard name of x-ray examination;
- b) That informed consent was obtained;
- c) The date of onset of last menses;
- d) The signature of the PA;
- e) The name of the physician responsible for care of the patient, where available.

8. Resources:

- a) MRT (R);
- b) Medical Director, Diagnostic Imaging;
- c) Program Director, Diagnostic Services.

9. References:

- a) College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario Policy Statement #5-12 Delegation of Controlled Acts
- b) Clinical Practice Manual – Medical Directives 3-30-20
- c) CPSO – The Controlled Acts Model, 1996
- d) Public Hospitals Act – Orders for Treatment, 1996

10. Review:

The medical directive will be reviewed annually by Chief of Psychiatry.

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