



February 3, 2022

«Salutation» «Name»

«Title»

«Hospital»

«Address»

«City», «Province»

«PC»

*via email: «EMAIL»*

Dear «Salutation» «Name»,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Physician Assistants (CAPA), I am reaching out regarding the recent changes to the Dedicated Offload Nurses Program (DONP). The Ministry of Health has expanded the pool of health professionals who can offload patients with DONP funding to now include Physician Assistants (PA) to help reach the growing demand of emergency medicine services.

This change will allow ambulances to return to communities as soon as possible to provide more people with access to timely emergency care, while reducing Ambulance Offload Time and mitigating Health Human Resource shortages. CAPA would like to encourage you to use this funding to hire PAs.

### **ABOUT PAs**

PAs are academically prepared and highly skilled health care professionals who provide a broad range of medical services. PAs are physician extenders and not independent practitioners; they work with a degree of autonomy, negotiated, and agreed on by the supervising physician(s) and the PA. PAs can work in any clinical setting to extend physician services. PAs complement existing services and aid in improving patient access to health care. A relationship with a supervising physician is essential to the role of the PA.

Today there are just over 600 certified PAs working in the province to deliver seamless care in a cost-effective manner. In hospitals, PAs are playing a significant in-house role that continues to expand in the light of the evolving work patterns of medical residents (resulting from changes to resident training practices). PAs also provide care for inpatients on the wards, as well as in clinic, the operating room, as well as provide timely emergency room consultation requests.

.../2

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Page 2 of 2

## **IMPROVED PATIENT CARE AND THROUGHPUT**

As you know, your site has been deemed eligible to apply DONP funding to staff offload positions in the emergency department (ED). While PAs can be used to offload patients from paramedics, their Scope of Practice allows them to do much more. PAs can diagnose and treat patients on arrival, rather than having them wait for an assessment.

***Using DONP funding for a PA to offload, diagnose and treat patients can play a pivotal role in helping to improve patient flow and reduce wait times.***

We are happy to arrange a meeting to discuss how adding a PA can benefit your department. Please contact Kristy Corrente ([kcorrente@capa-acam.ca](mailto:kcorrente@capa-acam.ca)), CAPA's Manager, Advocacy and Stakeholder Relations for Eastern Canada to schedule a time to meet. For more information and instructions on how to begin the application process to request funding under this program, please contact [pmda@ontario.ca](mailto:pmda@ontario.ca).

Regards,

Anthony Desloges, CCPA  
Provincial Director - Ontario