

The Global Applicability of Physician Assistants

David Fahringer, PA-C; Kathy Jane Pedersen, PA-C, MPAS; Patricia A. Castillo, MS, PA-C; David Kuhns, MPH, PA-C; Marie-Michèle Léger, MPH, PA-C; Rachel Catanzaro, PA-C; Donna DeGracia, MPAS, PA-C; Charles Brakhage, MPAS, PA-C, Jessica Boudreaux-Milligan

Many nations throughout the world are exploring or re-exploring the physician assistant (PA) concept as a way to quickly and efficiently train and employ highly autonomous and flexible health workers to address their nations' health care needs. The Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), along with the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), is actively sharing information about the PA profession with other countries. Several countries are utilizing US-trained PAs in pilot programs and/or have currently established or will begin a PA program within the next year. In addition, many PA programs have affiliation agreements with institutions outside of the United States to host PA students for clinical rotations. In the United States, the PA model has proven to be a cost-effective way to train quality primary care providers, and there has been a high degree of acceptance of the PA role by patients and other health care providers. PA education is efficient and flexible and the PA model can be easily adapted to the specific health needs of other nations.