

Advanced Practice Caregivers

What are Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)?

APRNs are registered nurses who have received advanced training at a master's/graduate or doctoral level. APRNs provide advanced clinical care to patients, including evaluating, diagnosing, ordering tests, providing treatment, and prescribing medications. APRNs are licensed by the Boards of Nursing in the state in which they practice. Additionally, they are certified by one of several national nursing organizations.

All APRNs must complete continuing education courses to maintain their specialty certifications. They must also maintain their licensure as a Registered Nurse in order to practice.



What are Physician Assistants (PAs)?

PAs are healthcare professionals who have received advanced training at a master's level. PAs provide advanced clinical care to patients, including evaluating, diagnosing, ordering tests, providing treatment, and prescribing medications.

A PA's education is modeled on the medical school curriculum and includes the same prerequisite coursework taken by physicians. During training, PAs gain experience in specialties including family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, emergency medicine, psychiatry, and general surgery. PAs obtain a Master's degree in PA studies.

PAs are nationally certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) and licensed to practice medicine by their state's medical board. Like physicians, PAs must complete continuing medical education courses throughout their career. PAs recertify by exam every 10 years and must maintain their state licensure as a PA in order to practice.

Services provided by your Advance Practice Caregivers

Within the Center for Spine Health, our Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) provide a variety of services for patients with various medical and surgical problems of the spine. These include:

- Obtain patient history and conduct physical exams
- Develop a patient's plan of care
- Assess and revise an existing plan of care
- Order, interpret, and follow up on diagnostic tests and therapies
- Prescribe medications
- Provide patient, family, and community education
- Perform diagnostic and preventative procedures

Cleveland Clinic APRNs and PAs are located at various family health centers throughout the Cleveland and surrounding areas as well as at many of our regional hospitals.

To make an appointment with a Center for Spine Health Advanced Practice Registered Nurse or Physician Assistant, call 216-636-5860.