



Medical Directive

Physician Assistant

Assigned Number: 032

Activation Date: Dec 10, 2025

Review Due: Dec 2026

Sponsoring/Contact Person:

Lisa Vreugdenhil, Executive Director, Clinical Services (lisa.vreugdenhil@thamesvalleyfht.ca)

Order and/or Delegated Procedure:

Appendix Attached: ☐ Yes ☒ No

This directive authorizes Physician Assistants (PAs) working in primary care to perform specified non-controlled acts tasks, controlled acts and clinical procedures necessary for the assessment, diagnosis, and management of patients, in accordance with current College of Physician and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) standards of practice and under the direct or indirect supervision of the delegating/authorizing physician.

Clinical Scope

1. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

The PA may provide routine medical care consisting of, but not limited to:

- Adult male and female periodic health exams
- Well infant and well child exams
- Cancer screening
- Immunizations
- Health counseling and education
- Smoking cessation
- Sexual Health Counseling
- Routine follow-up visits for ongoing health maintenance

2. Acute or Episodic Presentations

The PA may obtain a history, perform a physical examination, assess, and initiate therapeutic interventions for patients presenting with acute or episodic concerns including, but not limited to:

- Headache, fever, rash, fatigue, weakness
- Cough, cold, sinus pain/pressure, sore throat, ear problems
- Shortness of breath, chest pain, palpitations
- Abdominal pain, vomiting, bowel habit changes, reflux
- Genital or urinary symptoms
- Musculoskeletal trauma or pain
- Infectious disease presentations
- Sexual health problems



3. Chronic Disease Management

The PA may provide assessment, monitoring, and ongoing management for patients with known or newly diagnosed chronic diseases, including but not limited to:

- Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Cardiovascular disease, Congestive Heart Failure, hypertension
- Diabetes
- Mental illness
- Autoimmune and rheumatologic disorders
- Cancer
- Osteoporosis

4. Prenatal Care

The PA may provide routine prenatal care in a shared-care model with obstetrics, as determined by the supervising physician.

- All laboratory and imaging results will be copied to the patient's family physician and consulting obstetrician.
- High-risk prenatal patients will be referred immediately for sole obstetrical management.

5. Medical Imaging and Laboratory Testing

The PA is authorized to order diagnostic imaging and laboratory tests required for assessment, diagnosis, or medical monitoring of patients, in accordance with approved clinical guidelines and supervising physician protocols.

6. Prescribing and Therapeutics

The PA is authorized to prescribe and renew medications and therapeutics for acute and chronic medical conditions, in accordance with current practice guidelines and protocols established by the supervising physician.

7. Procedures and Skills

The PA is authorized to perform clinical procedures and technical skills within their demonstrated competence and in accordance with protocols approved by the supervising physician.

8. Immunizations and Medication Administration

The PA is authorized to administer medications and vaccinations by oral, intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, or inhalation routes.

Recipient Patients:

Appendix Attached: ☐ Yes ☒ No

All active patients of Thames Valley Family Health Team (TVFHT) affiliated physicians listed on the Authorizer Approval Form who require care outlined in this directive.



Authorized Implementers:	Appendix Attached: ☒ Yes ☐ No Appendix 1: Implementer Approval Form
TVFHT PAs listed on Appendix 1 are approved implementers of this directive. The PA must adhere to current practice guidelines and supervising physician protocols. Medical services provided by the PA must be consistent with the PA's education, training and experience. Any task, procedure or clinical problem that the PA determines to be outside their level of competence shall be discussed with the supervising physician OR such cases shall be referred to the supervising physician or the patient's family physician or an appropriate consulting specialist with the approval of the supervising physician.	
Indications:	Appendix Attached: ☐ Yes ☒ No
1. The supervising or family physician has an established relationship with the patient. 2. The patient requires the care outlined in this directive to support their health and well-being.	
Contraindications:	Appendix Attached: ☐ Yes ☒ No
1. Any task, procedure, or clinical problem beyond the PA's level of competence. 2. Life-threatening, persistent, or unusual presentations. 3. Irrate, hostile, threatening, or drug-seeking patients. 4. Any situation with potential medical-legal implications best managed by the supervising or family physician. 5. Any encounter in which the patient specifically requests to see the supervising physician.	
Consent:	Appendix Attached: ☐ Yes ☒ No
Informed verbal consent is obtained from the patient/substitute decision maker, per TVFHT Informed Consent of Patient Healthcare Procedure and the CPSO Consent to Treatment policy, prior to the implementation of care.	



**Guidelines for Implementing the Order/
Procedure:**

Appendix Attached: ☐ Yes ☒ No

To support the aforementioned Clinical Scope and comprehensive patient assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up, the PA may carry out the following activities under the supervision of the authorizing physician:

1. Diagnose

The PA may communicate to a patient or his or her personal representative a diagnosis identifying a disease or disorder as the cause of symptoms of the individual in circumstances in which it is reasonably foreseeable that the individual or his or her personal representative will rely on the diagnosis.

2. Physical Examination and Instrument Use

To facilitate assessment and diagnosis, the PA may insert a hand, finger, or instrument:

- Beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow
- Beyond the opening of the urethra
- Beyond the anal verge
- Beyond the labia majora
- Into the oropharynx
- Into an artificial opening in the body

Approved instruments include:

Otoscope, tongue depressor, swab for culture and sensitivity (C&S), nasal speculum, vaginal speculum, tenaculum, rectal thermometer, and proctoscope.

3. Diagnostic and Monitoring Investigations

The PA may order diagnostic imaging and laboratory investigations necessary for diagnosis, treatment, or medical monitoring of medical conditions, in accordance with current practice guidelines and protocols approved by the supervising physician.

Authorized investigations include, but are not limited to:

- Routine and specialized blood work (including public health testing)
- X-ray
- Ultrasound (US)
- Computed Tomography (CT)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

If a clinical issue or investigation is determined to be outside the PA's level of competence, the PA shall:

- Discuss the case with the supervising physician, or
- Refer the patient to the supervising physician, the patient's family physician, or an appropriate consulting specialist with the supervising physician's approval.



4. Prescribing and Therapeutics

The PA may prescribe or renew medications (as defined in the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act*, except controlled substances) and therapeutics for the management of acute and chronic medical conditions in accordance with:

- Current clinical practice guidelines, and
- The protocols and standards adopted by the supervising physician.

The PA may prescribe a hearing aid for a hearing-impaired person.

Delegation requirements

- Prescriptions must include the applicable medical directive number.
- The PA may initiate or renew prescriptions directly under this delegation.
- The PA must verify patient allergies, indications, contraindications, and potential interactions before prescribing.
- Any clinical scenario or prescription outside the PA's competence or directive parameters must be discussed with the supervising physician before implementation.

Restrictions

The PA **may not prescribe controlled substances** including, but not limited to:

- Narcotics and Benzodiazepines
- Any medication regulated under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Canada)*

5. Procedures and Skills

The PA may perform the following procedures once competence has been demonstrated:

- Cervical screening specimen collection
- Punch biopsy
- Collection of body secretions/fluids
- Airway positioning and oxygen administration
- Splinting or immobilization of fractures/suspected fractures
- Suturing and suture/staple removal
- Wound care and debridement; Callus paring
- Local anesthesia (including digital nerve block)
- Cryotherapy of skin lesions
- Skin scraping or nail clipping for fungal infection
- Ear foreign body removal and lavage
- Fecal occult blood testing
- Joint injections and aspirations
- Cryotherapy or chemical therapy for genital warts
- Partial ingrown toenail removal
- Incision and drainage of abscesses or thrombosed external hemorrhoids
- Mole or lesion removal (pre-approved by supervising physician)
- Doppler to determine fetal heart rate
- Intrauterine Device insertion/removal
- Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptive insertion/removal



6. Medication Administration and Immunizations

The PA may administer medications and vaccines by oral, intradermal (ID), subcutaneous (SQ), intramuscular (IM), or inhalation routes, in accordance with current clinic and public-health protocols.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Routine and recommended vaccines, travel vaccines, and TB skin testing
- Vitamin B12, allergy, and iron injections

Documentation and Communication:

Appendix Attached: ☐ Yes ☒ No

- The PA must document all patient encounters in the electronic medical record (EMR), including relevant history, examination findings, assessment, diagnostic investigations, treatments, and prescriptions.
- Each entry must reference:
 - The name and assigned number of this medical directive
 - The PA's name and credentials
 - The authorizing physician's name
- Documentation must reflect all discussions or consultations with the supervising physician and/or the patient's family physician related to patient management or the plan of care.
- Charting must comply with current TVFHT and CPSO documentation standards and record-keeping expectations.

Review and Quality Monitoring Guidelines:

Appendix Attached: ☐ Yes ☒ No

1. Annual routine renewal will occur on the anniversary of the activation date. Renewal will involve a collaboration between the authorizing physician and a minimum of one currently practicing physician assistant employed by TVFHT.
2. If concerns related to the use of this directive are identified, the team must act upon the concerns and immediately undertake a review of the directive by the authorizing physician and a minimum of one currently practicing physician assistant employed by TVFHT.
3. If new information becomes available between routine renewals, and particularly if this new information has implications for unexpected outcomes, the directive will be reviewed by the authorizing physician and a minimum of one currently practicing physician assistant employed by TVFHT.

Approving Authorizer(s):

Appendix Attached: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Appendix 2: Authorizer Approval Form

TVFHT affiliated physicians listed in Appendix 2 authorize this directive.



Appendix 1

Implementer Approval Form

Implementer Name	Signature	Date



Appendix 2

Authorizer Approval Form

Authorizer Name	Signature	Date