



SOCIETY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS IN OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

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Practice Protocols for Otorhinolaryngology / Head and Neck Surgery Physician Assistant

1. Clinical Purpose

The ORL / HNS Physician Assistant (PA) is a versatile, well adapted and competent member of the otolaryngology team. The well trained PA can:

- Effectively interview patients and initiate evaluations and treatments with minimal ongoing supervision and consultation with the supervising physician.
- Perform a wide variety of clinical and surgical procedures as directed by the supervising physician.
- First assist in the operating room with major head and neck procedures as required by the supervising physician.
- Assume responsibility for coordinating admission, physical examination, work-up, consultation, pre- and post-operative surgical care and administrative matters as directed by the supervising physician.
- Perform as house staff for the otolaryngology services to maintain continuity of care, assess and monitor patient status and respond to requests from associated services.

In this capacity the PA can improve the productivity of the supervising physician and the department by assuming many of the routine tasks which can be delegated without compromising patient care.

2. Training and Certification

The PA may be required by local state agencies to meet standards for education, certification, and continuing medical education to obtain a state license. Once the initial requirements for clinical practice have been met, the PA is responsible to maintain the necessary record for continuing licensure.

3. Inpatient Protocol

The PA will perform in patient duties as an addition to the ORL/HNS staff. The review and countersigning of inpatient orders, progress notes and the review of care delivered will be the responsibility of the supervising physician as directed by the appropriate state agencies and local hospital directives.

4. Outpatient Protocol

The PA will participate fully in the evaluation, procedures, and therapies performed in the clinic setting. The ORL/HNS PA Supplemental Credentials List may be used as a guide to the expected duties.

5. Changes to Practice Protocols

The practice protocol is a guide only. Additions, deletions and or changes to the guide should be noted and be available for review by any appropriate agencies.

Supplemental Credentials List

Otolaryngology / Head and Neck Surgery Physician Assistant

The Otorhinolaryngology / Head and Neck Surgery Physician Assistants have received specialized training in preparation for duties which may include:

Performing initial evaluation/consultation on routine otolaryngological problems and performing specific otolaryngologic history and physical examination and treatments which may include:

*Ears – to include oto-microscopic examination

External Ear

- Removal of foreign bodies / cerumen
- Treatment of otitis externa
- Evaluation of pinna lesions
- Evaluation and treatments of perichondral hematomas

Tympanic Membrane and Middle Ear

- Evaluation and treatment of otitis media
- Evaluation and treatment of serous otitis media
- Evaluation for cholesteatoma, mastoiditis
- Evaluation and treatment of uncomplicated TM perforations
- Paper patch of TM perforations in uncomplicated adults
- Adult myringotomy and PE tube placement with consultation

Inner Ear

- Evaluation of hearing loss
- Performance and Interpretation of audiograms
- Evaluation and treatment of vertigo and consultation
- Performance of caloric and Hallpike studies

*Nasal Problems – to include flexible fiberoptic nasal/nasopharyngeal examination

- Removal of nasal foreign bodies
- Evaluation and treatment of uncomplicated nasal infections
- Evaluation and treatment of allergic rhinitis
- Evaluation and treatment of epistaxis
- Evaluation and treatment of sinusitis
- Perform maxillary sinus puncture and irrigation with consultation
- Perform reduction of closed nasal fractures
- Evaluation and treatment of septal hematomas

*Mouth / Pharynx

- Evaluation and treatment of pharyngitis
- Evaluation and treatment of salivary gland infections
- Perform aspiration / I&D of peritonsillar abscess

*Hypopharynx/Larynx

- Fiberoptic examination as well as indirect laryngoscopy / nasopharyngoscopy
- Videostroboscopy as indicated or directed
- Initial evaluation of laryngeal lesions
- Evaluation for hoarseness
- Evaluation for dysphagia

*Head and Neck

Evaluation of neck masses / lymph nodes with consultation
Aspiration of masses for cytologic specimens with consultation
Evaluation of thyroid masses and consultation
Perform I&D of superficial H&N cysts/abscesses
Excision of superficial H&N skin lesions and cysts
Repair of facial lacerations with consultation
Evaluation and treatment of facial nerve paralysis with consultation

*ENT Radiology / Nuclear Medicine / Neuro-Otologic Studies

Initiate requests for nuclear medicine imaging studies with consultation
Initiate requests for CT/MRI studies for ENT evaluation
Initiate requests for ultrasound studies for ENT evaluation
Initiate requests for ENG and ABR studies for otologic evaluation

Surgical Suite Duties

- Preoperative coordination of workup and patient preparation as directed by the otolaryngologist and existing local directives of protocol.
- Perform as first assistant in surgical cases for which the supervising physician has been credentialed and as deemed appropriate by Department Chairman / Head and Neck Surgery.
- Participate in the postoperative care and management of the patient in all aspects as directed by the supervising physician.