

Pembroke Regional Hospital

MEMO

To: All Staff & Physicians
From: Dr. A.M. Savoie, Lead Hospitalist
Date: 2022 June 08
Subject: Hospital Physician Assistant

Pembroke Regional Hospital (PRH) is proud and excited to welcome James Dougan to our Hospitalist team. James is a Physician Assistant (PA) with an extensive background in health care, including almost 20 years spent with the Health Services Branch of the Canadian Armed Forces. Staff will likely already have had the opportunity to meet James since he started working with the Hospitalist team in March.

Physician Assistants are highly skilled health professionals who support physicians in all health care settings. The intent of utilizing PAs within the Hospitalist department at PRH is to provide exemplary clinical care, improve patient safety, and enhance the patient experience.

Physician Assistants are a physician extender and are not independent practitioners; they work under the direction of supervising physicians within the patient-centred care team. Within the physician-PA relationship, physician assistants exercise autonomy in medical decision making and provide a broad range of therapeutic and diagnostic services.

Physician Assistants within the Hospitalist Team will practice under the Pembroke Regional Hospital *Hospitalist Physician Assistant* medical directive. This medical directive provides authority for both (i) physician assistants to accept an order or delegation for a controlled act(s) from a physician within their level of competence, and (ii) nurses, pharmacists, and other professionals to accept and co-implement an order as outlined in the medical directive from a PA.

Orders completed by the PA will be in accordance with the medical directive and documented on the MD order sheet/section of the clinical record. The order will include: reference to the medical directive; order details; name, signature, and designation of the PA; and the name of the most responsible physician (MRP). Orders completed by a Hospitalist PA must be processed and executed in the same manner as an order written by a physician.

For more information, please reference the **Pembroke Regional Hospital Medical Directive *Hospitalist Physician Assistant***. A copy of this medical directive is available on Policy Medical.