

50 Years of PA Practice

Hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities are busy places, filled with the hustle and bustle of patients and clinicians. During the course of your appointments and visits, you've probably noticed various members of the healthcare team hard at work.

For the last 50 years, PAs (physician assistants) have been core members of this healthcare team. Here in **[state]**, there are **[number]** PAs moving healthcare forward. Educated and trained as medical generalists, we practice in every setting and specialty, with the goal of providing each patient with the best care possible. This year, we're celebrating a significant milestone – the 50th anniversary of our profession.

The PA profession has come a long way since the first class of PAs graduated in 1967. Now, there are more than 200 PA programs awarding graduate degrees to students who have completed rigorous classroom coursework and an average of 2,000 hours of supervised clinical rotations in family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency medicine, general surgery, and psychiatry.

Today, the PA profession is more than 115,000 strong and growing rapidly.

PAs are looking forward to the next 50 years of taking care of our patients, making healthcare accessible, especially to people in rural and underserved areas of the country.

Here in **[state]**, we are in the midst of an unprecedented **[If appropriate]** physician shortage and a complex opioid crisis **[or other epidemic, if more appropriate]** – and PAs are on the front lines. Always innovative and always flexible, PAs are the solution to some of our system's biggest problems.

[If applicable] This year, the **[state]** **[House/Senate/Governor]** read an official proclamation recognizing the 50th anniversary of the PA profession. In every state, PAs, their state organizations and the American Academy of PAs are working together with state legislatures to modernize laws and regulations in an effort to remove unnecessary and antiquated barriers to care for patients.

Patients have trusted and relied on PAs for the last five decades. As we look to the next five, PAs in **[state]** are ready to take on new challenges, and continue serving our patients.