**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO**

**CHILD HEALTH ASSOCIATE/PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM**

**Course Title:** Rural Community Medicine (Sec I-II) **Credit Hours:** 4.0

**Course Number:** MPAS 6952

**Course Dates/Times:** Daily for 1 calendar month **Semester(s):** Summer, Fall or Spring

**Course Location:** See Typhon for Clinical Placement **Year:** 2024-2025

**Course Director:** Roberta Knott (she/her), MPAS, PA-C **Clinical Coordinator:** Manda Baker (she/her)

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**Course Communication:**

**Email:** Announcements of course information and other communication within this course will be sent using the student’s University email. *It is the student’s responsibility to check email daily.*

**Non-email communication:** Typhon will be used to communicate clinical placement information. The Canvas online platform will be used for general information and clinical requirements.

**Method of Making Appointments for Office Hours:**  Please email to make an appointment.

**Course Description:** The course involves active participation in a rurally located medical practice with exposure to patients across the lifespan. The student may have exposure to patients requiring acute, chronic, emergent, and preventative care in ambulatory, home, inpatient and/or skilled nursing settings. There is potential for exposure to behavioral and/or mental health conditions as well. Night and weekend hours may be required. Registration is restricted to those students enrolled in authorized Track.

**Course Goals:** Through didactic course instruction, clinical experiences and community involvement, students will gain perspective and knowledge regarding the unique economic, cultural, social and healthcare challenges in rural societies. They will acquire an understanding of roles, opportunities and responsibilities for future practice in rural healthcare settings.

**Program Learning Outcomes:** The University of Colorado CHA/PA Program’s didactic curriculum is based on clinical presentations, as the common and important ways in which patients present to healthcare providers.1 The clinical curriculum provides opportunities in clinical settings to engage the clinical presentations introduced in the classroom and enhance the practice readiness of students. Over the course of the 3rd Year, CHA/PA students are expected to evaluate patients with a variety of clinical presentations in various age groups, healthcare settings and with various levels of acuity, as well as observe or perform program-defined clinical skills.

1. Students are expected to evaluate **at least 1 (one)** patient over the course of the 3rd year in each of the following settings: outpatient, emergency department, inpatient and operating room.
2. **Patient Logging of Chief Complaint/Clinical Presentation**: Students are expected to log all patient encounters over the course of the 3rd year correlating the chief complaint to a clinical presentation, when applicable.

**Learning Objectives:** The general objectives noted below are based on entry-level PA practice, the expectation for CHA/PA students to have attained at the completion of the 3rd Year.

Medical Knowledge: Upon completion of the 3rd year, the student will be able to:

* Apply medical knowledge of common and uncommon illnesses encountered including risk factors, etiology, pathophysiology and clinical findings pertinent to many of the clinical presentations listed below
* Demonstrate the ability to synthesize information for a clinically appropriate working diagnosis and prioritized differential, articulating logical medical decision making and taking the patient’s unique context into consideration

*Clinical Presentations*

Constitutional

Fatigue

Fever

Pain

Dehydration

Skin injury

Preventative Care

Well care across lifespan, including:

* immunizations
* newborn assessment
* normal development (including pediatric milestones and puberty)
* nutrition counseling

Screenings

Across the lifespan, including for:

* cancer
* depression
* developmental delays

Hematology/Lymphatics

Bleeding/Bruising

Pallor

Lymphadenopathy

Dermatology

Burns

Hair changes

Nail changes

Rash

Skin lesions

Ophthalmology/ENT

Abnormal eye appearance

Abnormal vision

Dizziness

Ear pain

Hearing problems

Mouth disorders

Neck mass

Ophthalmology/ENT (cont.)

Noisy breathing/snoring

Rhinorrhea

Sore throat

Cardiovascular

Abnormal lipids

Chest Pain

Fainting

Hypertension

Murmurs

Palpitations

Shock

Pulmonary

Adult cough

Cyanosis

Pediatric cough (acute & chronic)

Pediatric dyspnea (including newborn respiratory distress)

Shortness of breath/Trouble breathing

Gastrointestinal

Abdominal distension

Abdominal mass

Abdominal pain

Blood in stool

Constipation

Diarrhea

Difficulty swallowing

Jaundice/Abnormal liver studies

Nausea

Vomiting (including hematemesis)

Genitourinary/Renal

Edema

Scrotal mass

Testicular pain

Urinary complaints

Musculoskeletal/Orthopedics

Back and neck pain

Musculoskeletal/Orthopedics (cont.)

Gait disturbance

Joint pain

Painful and swollen limb

Refusal to use limb

Weakness

Neurology

Abnormal movements

Altered mental status

Cognitive impairment

Headaches

Involuntary movements

Numbness & tingling

Seizures

Speech & language disturbance

Endocrinology

Growth and/or development concern

Weight concern, including obesity, failure to thrive, diabetes and/or thyroid dysfunction

Reproduction/Women’s Health

Abnormal bleeding

Breast abnormalities

Genital problems (discharge, lesions)

Normal pregnancy care

Pelvic problems (pain, masses)

Pregnancy problems

Psychiatry

Abnormal mood

Addiction

Anxiety

Chronic pain

Disordered eating

OCD behavior

Psychological trauma

Psychosis

Sleep problems

Toxic ingestion

Professional Practice: Upon completion of the 3rd year, the student will be able to:

* Apply techniques to improve clinic workflow
* Demonstrate the skills of a successful, self-directed learner
* Demonstrate behaviors that convey compassion, respect, integrity and empathy for others
* Demonstrate sensitivity and openness to a diverse patient population
* Demonstrate the professional behaviors expected of a medical professional (i.e. student dresses appropriately, attends clinic on time, addresses the staff with respect, maintains patient privacy, takes feedback well, etc.)
* Collaborate with other health professionals and community resources to promote a climate of mutual respect and trust, while also benefiting patient care

Clinical Skills: Upon completion of the 3rd year, the student will be able to:

* Observe or perform program-defined skills listed below
* Perform a problem-focused history for the patient’s clinical presentation, which accurately reflects the history of present illness, review of the medical record, and contains pertinent positive and negative symptoms
* Perform a technically accurate physical exam for the patient’s clinical presentation
* Select, justify and interpret appropriate labs, clinical tests and/or imaging for the patient’s clinical presentation
* Develop an appropriate plan for patient care, including appropriate selection of pharmaceuticals, referrals, immunizations, preventative care screenings and anticipatory guidance around health promotion, disease prevention, minor illness/trauma treatment, growth and development, safety, nutrition and behavior, as appropriate
* Develop a rapport with patients using verbal & non-verbal interpersonal and communication skills, which will facilitate culturally sensitive shared decision making and information exchange
* Maintain organized, accurate, complete, and timely medical records
* Perform oral presentations in a succinct, accurate, organized and thorough manner

*Clinical Skills*

Below are the program’s expected clinical skills. Skills noted in italics are not required, but are highly recommended, for students.

Perform (20)

* Perform safety and prevention counseling with adults
* Perform anticipatory guidance with pediatric patients/families
* Perform safety and prevention counseling with pediatric patients/families
* Perform laceration repair (e.g., glue, staple &/or suture)
* Perform oral health care (e.g., screening, varnish, education &/or referral)
* Perform EKG Interpretation
* Perform rectal exam (anoscopy &/or DRE)
* Perform testicular exam
* Perform casting and/or splinting
* Perform bimanual pelvic exam
* Perform clinical breast exam
* Perform prenatal care counseling
* Perform vaginal speculum exam/Pap smear
* Perform aseptic technique
* Perform injections (IM, SC, intradermal)
* Perform local anesthesia (subQ, infiltration)
* Perform nerve blocks (digital)
* Perform point-of-care testing
* U/A, urine pregnancy test, hemoccult
* Finger/heel stick: glucose, lead, hemoglobin
* Rapid testing: rapid HIV, RSV, Flu, Covid, &/or strep
* Perform surgical care (including pre-op, intra-op with surgical repair, and post-op care)
* Perform X-ray interpretation

Observe or perform (9)

* Observe or perform end of life wishes/DNR discussion
* Observe or perform cryotherapy
* Observe or perform skin biopsy (e.g., excision, punch, &/or shave)
* Observe or perform wound care (e.g., bandage change, burn management, repacking, wound debridement, &/or suture/staple removal)
* Observe or perform eye injury evaluation (e.g., slit lamp, fluorescein eye stain &/or tonometry)
* Observe or perform nebulizer treatment
* Observe or perform joint aspiration &/or injection
* Observe or perform wet prep (with KOH and saline)
* Observe or perform I&D of abscess or cyst

Observe (1)

* Observe lumbar puncture

*Recommended, but not required (6)*

* *Observe or perform endotracheal intubation*
* *Observe or perform bladder/urethral catheterization*
* *Observe or perform LARC insertion and/or removal (e.g., IUD or Nexplanon)*
* *Observe OB/GYN procedures (e.g., cervical dilation, colposcopy, D&C, endometrial biopsy, version, Bartholin gland marsupialization, breast biopsy, etc.)*
* *Observe or perform IV catheter placement*
* *Perform venipuncture*

To determine learning outcomes have been met, the CHA/PA Program will use the following tools listed below.

1. **Preceptor Assessment of Student Performance**

Students will be assessed by a primary preceptor, in conjunction with other participating preceptors when pertinent, at the completion of the rotation. The areas of assessment align with many of the program-defined milestones, as well as the learning objectives.

1. **Program-Defined Clinical Skills**

Students are expected to observe or perform **program-defined skills,** listed on the subsequent pages, at least **once (1)** over the course of the 3rd year. When students are identified as not having completed one or more program-defined skills, the student will be directed to a remediation plan.

1. **Program-Defined Patient Demographics**
2. Students are expected to evaluate **at least 1 (one)** patient over the course of the 3rd year presenting with each of the following conditions: acute, chronic, preventative and emergent.
3. Students are expected to evaluate **at least 1 (one)** patient over the course of the 3rd year in each of the following age groups: infancy (<1 year), childhood (1-10 years), adolescence (11-17 years), adulthood (18-59 years) and the elderly (60+ years).

**Rural Rotation Specific Objectives**

Medical Knowledge: Upon completion of the 3rd year rural medicine rotation, the student will be able to:   
 • Apply medical knowledge of common illnesses and diseases encountered in infants, children, adolescents,   
 adults, women of childbearing age, menopausal women, and elderly patients, including risk factors,   
 etiology, pathophysiology and clinical findings pertinent to the clinical presentation.   
 • Demonstrate the ability to synthesize information for a working diagnosis and differential, prioritizing the   
 differential and articulating logical medical decision-making.

Clinical Skills: Upon completion of the 3rd year rural medicine rotation~~s~~, the student will be able to:

• Perform a problem-focused history for patients across the lifespan and their clinical presentation, which

accurately reflects the history of present illness, and contains pertinent positive and negative symptoms.   
• Perform a problem-focused physical exam for the patient’s clinical presentation, using appropriate exam   
 techniques.   
• Develop a differential diagnosis, which is appropriate for the patient’s clinical presentation and unique   
 context.   
• Determine the appropriate labs and/or imaging to order for the patient’s clinical presentation.   
• Interpret diagnostics in the context of the patient information, the clinical presentation, patient   
 preferences, evidence-based medical literature and clinical judgement. These may include, but are not   
 limited to:   
 o Point-of-care testing such as hemoccult, hemoglobin/hematocrit, lead level, rapid flu, rapid strep,   
 urinalysis, urine pregnancy test   
 o CBC, chemistry panel, HgbA1c, lipid panel, liver and renal function, thyroid panel   
 o Pap smear, prenatal lab panels, STI testing (blood and culture), ultrasound, fetal heart tones on   
 Doppler, fundal height measurements   
 o Mammogram reports, U/S reports, X-rays, EKGs, spirometry, pathology reports

• Develop an appropriate plan for patient care, including appropriate selection and dosing of   
 pharmaceuticals, immunizations, preventative care screenings and anticipatory guidance, including health   
 promotion, disease prevention, minor illness/trauma treatments, growth/development, safety, nutrition   
 and behavior, as appropriate.   
• Maintain clear, accurate, timely and legible medical records.   
• Perform succinct, yet thorough, oral presentations of patient care cases.

Professional Practice: Upon completion of the 3rd year rural medicine rotations, the student will be able to:   
 • Meet the CHA/PA Professional Practice objectives associated with all 3rd Year rotations.

**Required Text(s) and Pre-Work:** Please refer to Canvas for rotation-specific readings and/or pre-work; other work may be assigned by preceptor throughout the experience.

**Required and Recommended Texts and Resource Materials:** The Clinical Canvas Shell is a student resource for clinical experience information. The site has important documents, resources, and clinical site information. There is no required text for this course; however, reference text or reading suggestions, if available, can be found on Canvas.

**Required Supplies:** The CHA/PA Program requires students to wear the blue CHA/PA nametag. Additional required supplies will vary by clinical site but may include a stethoscope and diagnostic equipment. Please see Canvas for more details based on your specific site, if available.

**Course Format:** This course will include supervised clinical practice experience daily for one month. Students will be supervised by the preceptor (or assigned licensed/board certified physician, PA or NP) at all times. Work outside of the clinical time may be required of students to complete assignments and self-directed learning.

**Course Schedule:** See Typhon for clinical placement information specific to your clinical experience.

**Assessment Methods:** This course will utilize the student evaluation of the preceptor/site, the preceptor’s assessment of the student, patient logging and attendance during the clinical rotation.

**Grades and Grading Policy:** All grades are assigned as Pass (P), In Progress (IP), Fail (F) pr Pass with Remediation (PR). Please see the *Student Academic Policies and Procedures* for more information about grading policies. In order to pass the course, the student is responsible for meeting all the requirements for a passing grade with a minimum total score of 70%, which include:

**Typhon Requirements**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Typhon Requirements (3)\* | | Format | | Points |
| Student evaluation of the preceptor *within 7 calendar days* of completing the experience^ | Typhon | | Complete/Incomplete | |
| Preceptor assessment of student *within 7 calendar days* of completing the experience^ | Complete/Incomplete | |
| Complete Typhon patient logs *within 7 calendar days* of completing the experience ^ | Complete/Incomplete | |
| \*Requirements are due within 7 calendar days of rotation completion.  ^Late requirements are a breach of professionalism. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that these items are completed in a timely manner. A warning will be given for the first violation and subsequent violations will be reviewed by the Student Promotions Committee. If any of the requirements are missing or not meeting program-defined expectations at the time semester grades are due, the student will receive an “Incomplete” (IP) grade until that requirement has been met. See *Student Academic Policies and Procedures* for further information. | | | | |

**CORHWI Requirements**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CORHWI Requirements (3)^ | Format | Points |
| Completion of five (5) Colorado Rural Healthcare Workforce Initiative (CORHWI) Modules | Recorded modules | 10 points/ module (total of 50 points) |
| Participation in at lease one Project ECHO Colorado Live Learning Session with Reflection Paper | Online participation | 20 points |
| Participation in Community Activity with Reflection Paper | Group Activity | 30 points |
| ^Assignments are subject to change. See Canvas for all updated assignment information. | | |

**Assessment Expectations:** Assessments that do not demonstrate that a student met program-defined expectations or that contain concerning comments about professionalism or fitness to practice will be reviewed by the Clinical Course Director, in consultation with faculty, staff, Student Promotions Committee and/or preceptors, to determine the final grade.

**Patient Logging:**  Patient logging is a requirement for the course and logs are reviewed monthly. A holistic report of the student’s logging will be generated on the 3rd and 8th month of the clinical year to determine if the student is on-track to complete program-defined expectations. Completion of the following fields for patient encounters in the Typhon patient logging system will be reviewed and assessed by the Clinical Course Director:

* + Chief Complaint/Clinical Presentation
  + Patient Demographics
  + Clinical Skills

If a student is identified as lacking one or more of the program-defined expectations, he/she will be directed to a remediation plan.

**Course/Program Policies:** See *Student Academic Policies and Procedures*.

**Professional Behaviors:** Students are expected to follow all professional behaviors as detailed in the *Student Academic Policies and Procedure*s and outlined in “Ensuring a Climate for Learning in the Clinical Experience: Educator-Student Agreement” in all thread experiences. Specific to the Clinical Experiences thread are additional expectations including:

1. Many clinical sites require additional requirements and trainings, which you will be asked to complete in a timely fashion during the semester and return requirements to the facility and/or to Clinical Team for processing. It is the student’s responsibility to complete requirements by the assigned due dates.
2. Dress code is as directed by the clinical site but should be no less casual than business casual. Students should inquire about whether the white coat is preferred. All students will need to wear the blue name tag, in addition to any site/facility badging requirements.

**Accommodations:** The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is committed to providing equitable access to our programs for students with disabilities (e.g., psychological, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, and physical).

To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom and clinical settings please contact The Office of Disability, Access, and Inclusion at: [disabilityaccess@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:disabilityaccess@cuanschutz.edu) or begin the process via the [website](https://www.cuanschutz.edu/offices/office-of-disability-access-and-inclusion). Accommodations are not provided retroactively, therefore, students are encouraged to begin this process early.

Student Support: We care about students and their success. The CU Anschutz Medical Campus offers multiple resources and services to support student needs. The Office of Student Affairs can help students navigate academic and non-academic resources across campus. Please visit their website for more information (<https://www.ucanschutz.edu/student>).

**\*The above syllabus is subject to change – all changes will be forwarded to all students.**