

AFSC 42G4*, Staff
AFSC 42G3*, Qualified
AFSC 42G1*, Entry

★PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
(Changed 31 Oct 23)

1. Specialty Summary. Provides comprehensive health maintenance and continuing medical care to assigned patient population. Examines, diagnoses, and treats diseases and injuries; manages inpatient and outpatient care and clinical services. Instructs other healthcare providers and nonmedical personnel. Related DoD Occupational Group: 260811.

2. Duties and Responsibilities:

- 2.1. Advanced Practice Provider: Independently privileged healthcare provider who uses evidence-based practice to render autonomous or collaborative direct patient care, including comprehensive assessments, differential diagnosis, plans and prescribes pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments under Federal Supremacy guidance, including durable medical equipment in management of acute and chronic conditions, promotes health, and delivers preventive care within the area of practice. Physician Assistants in all specialty care areas perform patient and staff education, research, and consultation as appropriate to promote wellness and prevent illness and injury.
- 2.2. Coordinates patient care. Collaborates with other members of the healthcare team on both inpatient and outpatient services. Initiates consultation requests to other health professionals and provides comprehensive patient management when indicated.
- 2.3. Instructs medical and non-medical personnel. Formulates training programs and instructs both medical and nonmedical personnel in a variety of operational, aircrew safety and health-related topics. May instruct others in healthcare and non-healthcare fields at military or affiliated civilian institutions, and perform additional duties such as profile officer, to meet operational requirements.

3. ★Specialty Qualifications:

- 3.1 Knowledge. Fulfillment of education requirement satisfies.
- 3.2 Education. For entry into this specialty, graduation from a Master's degree awarding Physician Assistant/Physician Associate (PA) program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) or its predecessors and acceptable to the Surgeon General, USAF, is mandatory.
- 3.3. Training. Must have minimum of 12-months of hands-on clinical rotations during the last year of training prior to initial graduation.
- 3.4. Experience. For award of AFSC 42G3, 8 months experience in a clinical practice, after completing the 42G Ramp Up, and current and active certification by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) is mandatory. Additionally, maintenance of a state license to practice medicine as a PA is highly encouraged.
- 3.4.1. For award of AFSC 42G3A/C/E/N, requirements of AFSC 42G3 and completion of a suffix-specific training or fellowship program acceptable to the Surgeon General, HQ USAF.
- 3.4.1.1. For award of 42G3P, completion of minimum 18-months clinical experience as AFSC 42G3, prescribed training IAW AFI 48-149, *Flight and Operational Medicine Program (FOMP)*, and 6-months experience in an Aerospace Medicine assignment.
- 3.4.1.2. ARC/ANG only. In lieu of approved suffix-specific fellowship program, requirements of AFSC 42G3, current and continuous practice in the specialty, successful completion and maintenance of NCCPA Specialty Certificate of Additional Qualifications, annual civilian Department Chair attestation of applicant's current case log and performance, and annual approval by the Consultant to the Surgeon General for Physician Assistant Specialties is mandatory.
- 3.5. Other. The following are mandatory:
 - 3.5.1. For entry and retention of AFSC 42G1, must meet education and training requirements and meet NCCPA eligibility requirements to sit and challenge the Physician Assistant National Certification Examination (PANCE). Must successfully challenge PANCE within 15-months of entry.
 - 3.5.2. For entry and retention of AFSC 42G1X (subspecialty)
 - 3.5.2.1. Must maintain a current and active certification by the NCCPA.
 - 3.5.2.2. Must be a fully qualified 42G3 with minimum 36-months clinical experience at start of fellowship and accepted to a suffix-specific fellowship.
 - 3.5.3. For award and retention of AFSCs (42G3/4X):
 - 3.5.3.1. Must not incur by any action or inaction the loss or revocation of board certification by the NCCPA.
 - 3.5.3.2. ★Must obtain and maintain clinical privileges IAW DHA-PM 6025.13 Vol 4 and/or AFI 44-119, *Medical Quality Operations* (or be immediately eligible for said privileges if assigned to a non-clinical position.)
 - 3.5.3.3. For retention of AFSCs 42G3/4X, must not have a permanent revocation or denial of all professional privileges IAW AFI 44-119.

4. *Specialty Shredouts:

<i>Suffix</i>	<i>Portion of AFS to Which Related</i>
A	Orthopedics
B	Otolaryngology
C	General Surgery
E	Emergency Medicine
N	Psychiatry
P	Aeromedical