

To find a provider:
BayCareMedicalGroup.org

What Are APRNs and PAs?

Get to Know Your
Advanced Care Provider



In addition to our physicians, BayCare Medical Group employs many levels of health care professionals, offering a continuum of care in the diagnosis and treatment of our patients. From medical assistants to nurses and advanced care providers, the health care team represents a variety of disciplines and assists the physicians with the day-to-day diagnosis and treatment of our patients.

Advanced care providers, or ACPs, are high-level clinicians commonly referred to as APRNs (advanced practice registered nurse) or PAs (physician assistant). After receiving a master's or doctorate-level degree, many have extensive clinical training in specialty areas such as family practice, gynecology, cardiology, oncology and surgery. All are able to interpret diagnostic studies such as radiology reports and laboratory results, and can perform physical exams. ACPs can see new patients, just as physicians do, and they work as a team with your physician during your treatment.



What is an APRN?

An APRN (advanced practice registered nurse) is educated and trained to provide the diagnosis and treatment of acute illnesses and chronic conditions using complex decision-making skills.

APRNs must pass national board-certifying exams in a specific area of medicine and apply for a license within the state in which they are employed. Some may also obtain additional training and credentials and can examine, test, treat and prescribe medication for patients. Their role may vary from office to office, but in general, APRNs can conduct physical exams, order and interpret tests, diagnose illnesses, develop treatment plans and perform certain procedures. APRNs are expected to complete various levels of continuing medical education, peer review and clinical practice hours to maintain their license and certifications. They are held to the same ethical standards as physicians.

What is a PA?

A PA (physician assistant) is educated and trained to provide the diagnosis and treatment of acute illnesses and chronic conditions using complex decision-making skills.

PAs are nationally certified and state-licensed medical professionals who can examine, test, treat and prescribe medication for patients, and their role may vary from office to office. In general, PAs can conduct physical exams, order and interpret tests, diagnose illnesses, develop treatment plans, perform procedures and assist in surgery, while providing advice on preventive health care. PAs are expected to complete various levels of continuing medical education, peer review and clinical practice hours to maintain their license and certifications. They are held to the same ethical standards as physicians.

Seeing an APRN or PA in our offices provides the same level of health care commitment as you receive with a physician. By utilizing APRNs and PAs, we are able to expand your access to health care solutions by providing a unique blend of quality medical care and personalized attention. Our goal is for you to see a medical expert as soon as possible for your health care needs.