

Physician Assistants & Nurse Practitioners

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS (PAs) are healthcare professionals licensed and credentialed by the federal government to practice medicine with physician supervision. PA's education follows the medical model, which is designed to complement that of the physician. They exercise autonomy in medical decision-making and provide a broad range of diagnostic and therapeutic services, which were traditionally conducted by physicians. They deliver a range of medical and surgical services including conducting physical examinations, ordering and interpreting diagnostic tests, prescribing medications, and relaying patient information.

A NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP) is a registered nurse (RN) who has completed advanced education (a minimum of a master's degree) and training in the diagnosis and management of common medical conditions, including chronic illnesses. Nurse Practitioners provide a broad range of health care services. They provide some of the same care provided by physicians and maintain close working relationships with physicians. A NP can serve as a patient's regular healthcare provider.

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Ryan Bowman, PA-C

Physician Assistant to Dr. Tim Ballard and Dr. John Nash

Ryan received his undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and graduated from the Kettering College of Medical Arts Physician Assistant Program. Prior to joining CSMO in 2011, he worked for 16 years in the field of Emergency Medicine. Ryan is married and he and his wife have three children.



Jim Bryan, PA-C

Physician Assistant to Dr. Pat Stone, Dr. Brett Sanders and Dr. Todd Grebner

Jim graduated from the Emory University Physician Associate Program. With over 25 years of experience working in orthopaedics, he joined CSMO in January of 2010. He is married, has two children and three grandchildren and lives in North Hamilton County in the Snow Hill Community.



Donna Pearson, PA-C, ATC, PTA

Physician Assistant to Dr. Scott Hodges

Donna is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Surgical Assistant program and holds a Bachelors degree in Sports Medicine from the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama. Prior to joining CSMO in September of 2001, she practiced as a certified athletic trainer and a physical therapist assistant in Ocean Springs and Biloxi, Mississippi. She is a native of Montana and lives in Chickamauga, Georgia with her husband and daughter.



Kurt Harold Pulver, PA-C, DHSc

Physician Assistant to Dr. Jason Eck, Dr. Shay Richardson, Dr. Todd Bell and Dr. Jason Robertson

Dr. Pulver graduated from Albany Medical College Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program. He earned a Masters degree in Physician Assistant studies from the University of Nebraska and later earned his Doctorate in Health Sciences from A.T. Still University. He has 35 years of experience in orthopaedics and has worked with the physicians at CSMO for over 16 years. He is married and blessed with five children and seven grandchildren.



Melissa Shuleva, PA-C

Physician Assistant to Dr. Scott Hodges

Melissa received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences at Auburn University and her Masters degree at Methodist University in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She joined CSMO in January of 2012. Melissa lives in Cleveland with her husband and two children.



Katie Steen, PA-C

Physician Assistant to Dr. Chad Smalley

Katie received her undergraduate degree at Colorado Christian University and her Masters degree at Bethel College. She is married and lives in Chattanooga with her husband and three children.



Miranda Vandergriff, MSN, APRN, FNP-C

Nurse Practitioner for Dr. Matthew S. Bernard

Miranda received her nursing degree from Chattanooga State in 2004. Later, she completed both her Bachelors and Masters degrees at Middle Tennessee State University. With more than 10 years of nursing experience, Miranda joined CSMO in 2014. She resides in Soddy Daisy with her husband Greg and two daughters. Miranda is certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.