



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Logan Stewart

704.323.2486

logan.stewart@orthocarolina.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORTHOCAROLINA CELEBRATES PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

October 6-12 is National PA Week

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (October 1, 2015) –During this year’s [National PA Week, Oct. 6-12](#), we recognize the important contributions physician assistants (PA) make as valued members of our patient care team. Having PAs on patient care teams is a proven way to help maximize positive health outcomes and further our mission to provide the best care to our patients.

“OrthoCarolina is focused on increasing access to vital high-quality care, and PAs play a big part in that effort. PAs are a critical part of our team. In Orthopaedic Urgent Care, assisting in surgery and hospital-based care, in our outpatient clinics, and on the sidelines, PAs provide high-quality healthcare with a high degree of patient satisfaction,” said Timothy Pysell, Dr.HA, PA-C, Director of Physician Assistants.

The PA profession has grown 36 percent between 2009 and 2014. Studies have shown that when PAs are incorporated into healthcare teams the result is lower readmission rates for everything from postoperative care to cancer treatments. During [PA Week](#), OrthoCarolina is proud to recognize over 90 PAs on our healthcare team and celebrate their contributions to this organization and the health of the patients they serve.

“As an organization we are stronger when we all work together—and the result is world-class care for our patients,” said Pysell. “In the future as healthcare systems increasingly integrate and look to control cost while increasing quality, PAs are positioned well as highly-trained clinicians who embrace a team-based approach to care. North Carolinians have embraced PAs for decades in all specialties. We are proud of our heritage and reputation at OrthoCarolina, and are excited to continue that care into the future.”

What to Know About PAs:

- There are more than 104,000 certified PAs today. PAs practice in every medical and surgical specialty from pediatric neurosurgery to oncology to primary care.
- PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, write prescriptions, perform medical procedures—like joint injections—first assist in surgery, counsel patients on preventive healthcare, coordinate patient care, make rounds in nursing homes and hospitals and conduct clinical research.

- PAs are educated through intense graduate-level programs that average 27 months and require the same prerequisite courses as medical schools. As part of their education, PAs complete at least 2,000 hours of clinical rotations in every major specialty, from family medicine to general surgery to emergency medicine.

For more information about PA Week or the profession visit PAweek.com.

About OrthoCarolina

OrthoCarolina is one of the nation's leading independent academic orthopedics practices serving North Carolina and the Southeast since 1922. OrthoCarolina provides compassionate and comprehensive musculoskeletal care including operative and non-operative care, diagnostic imaging and rehabilitative therapy. Widely known for musculoskeletal research and training, OrthoCarolina physicians have specialized expertise in foot and ankle, hip and knee, shoulder and elbow, spine, sports medicine, hand, pediatric orthopedics, and physical medicine and rehabilitation. Our 130 OrthoCarolina physicians see nearly one million patient visits throughout western North Carolina each year.

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