



EXCELLENCE  
IN ORTHOPEDICS

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Logan Stewart

704.323.2486

[logan.stewart@orthocarolina.com](mailto:logan.stewart@orthocarolina.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**National PA Week is October 6-12**

*OrthoCarolina's 100 physician assistants help increase patient access to care  
2017 marks 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of profession*

**Charlotte, N.C.** (October 5, 2016) – During this year's [National PA Week, Oct. 6-12](#), we recognize the important contributions PAs (physician assistants) make as valued members of our patient care team. PAs are a vital part of the high-quality care we provide. 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. This year, PA Week is especially exciting, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the profession – and 50 years of providing the best possible care to our patients.

“The PA profession is growing every year, which allows us to provide care to more patients, especially in underserved areas with little access to healthcare,” said Bob Raspa, PA-C, Director of Physician Assistant Services and Value Based Programs. “We’ve accomplished a lot over the last five decades, and we’re ready for five more.”

The PA profession has seen tremendous growth in just the last few years. 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 the more than 100 PAs on our healthcare team and celebrate their contributions to this organization and the health of the patients they serve.

OrthoCarolina is committed to maximizing the roles PAs play on our healthcare teams because we know we are stronger when we all work together—and the result is world-class care for our patients. We also want to inform our patients, staff and the general public about who PAs are and the roles they play in healthcare delivery. For example:

- There are more than 108,500 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 to learn more about this dynamic profession visit [PAweek.com](http://PAweek.com).

### **About OrthoCarolina**

With expert physicians and care providers in locations throughout our region, OrthoCarolina is one of the nation's leading orthopedic practices and your destination for comprehensive orthopedic care. Our expertise in the areas of foot and ankle, hand, hip and knee, shoulder and elbow, spine, sports medicine and pediatrics to offer a continuum of care unmatched in our region — and throughout the country.

OrthoCarolina. You. Improved.

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