

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER

Tribal Community Health Provider Program
www.tchpp.org



WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER?

Community Health Aide/Practitioners (CHA/P) are certified primary and emergency care clinicians who have close cultural ties and connections to the communities they serve. In Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, they are community members of American Indian/Alaska Native communities who attend CHA/P educational programs approved by the Portland Area CHAP Certification Board and work within the tribal health and human systems.

A CHA/P practices under the supervision of a licensed clinical provider, such as a physician or advanced practice provider (PA, NP). Basic education for a CHA/P includes didactic learning, skills practice, and clinical time providing patient care with the guidance of an advanced practice provider or physician.

GENERAL SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR CHA/P

The scope of practice for CHA/Ps will include medical histories, physical exams, vital signs, basic specimen collection for labs, medication management, acute care, wound care, chronic wound care, adolescent health, family planning, prenatal care, postnatal care, newborn care, well-child care, sick child care, reproductive health, chronic care of major systems, clinical management, team leadership, mentorship and support to all CHA levels. The scope of practice will vary depending on the level of CHA/P completion.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER ROLE

Trained to see patients independently, under the supervision of a physician, PA or NP

Trained on the medical model to take History Exam Assessment Plan (HEAP)

Makes assessments and plan of care for patients, not diagnoses

Use the Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual for Practice (CHAMP) for every patient encounter

Dispense medication, but does not prescribe

Is a primary care provider eligible for standing orders

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER



BENEFITS OF HEALTH AIDE PROVIDERS

- American Indian/Alaska Native citizens providing care for their own people in their own communities. Care provided by culturally competent and respected member of their community
- CHAP provides a unique opportunity for Tribes to improve current health & education systems
- Improve continuity of care, alleviate recruitment & retention in tribal health care systems
- Provide education & career advancement in workforce

HOW TO BECOME A CHA/P

Community Health Representative

Complete 52 hrs of core education, 52 hrs of advanced education, 75 hrs of CHA foundation courses for a total of 179 hrs to earn a Certificate of Completion

Community Health Aide

Complete BLS skills, 298 hrs of didactic training, 296 hrs clinical, 86 onsite skills for a total of 680 hrs to earn a Community Health Aide Certificate

Community Health Practitioner

Complete 152 hrs of didactic training, 440 hrs of clinical, 88 onsite skills, and 100 hrs of assessment, skills clinical; for a total of 780 hrs to earn a Community Health Practitioner Certificate

CHA/P PATHWAY



ROLE OF TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

Determine how CHA/Ps will be employed withing tribal health clinics/facilities.

Provide Physician and/or Advanced Practice Provider (APP) for supervision, education and to take CHA/P patient report.

Arrange for day-to-day supervision, direction, and support for the CHA/Ps.

Allow support staff to participate in various CHA/P Program Boards and Committees.

Create positions and hire CHA/Ps.

Provide compensation and benefits to CHA/Ps.

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**NORTHWEST PORTLAND AREA
INDIAN HEALTH BOARD**
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



HOW TO BECOME A COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PRACTITIONER?

CHA/Ps attend 614 hours of didactic education and skills of the series of six quarter and perform 836 hours of clinical time. The minimum required hours total 1450 hours.

	Northwest Community Health Aide	Scope of Work & Milestones
CHR	Community Health Representative Core 48 hours of online coursework 12 hours of live Zoom coursework/skills Total: 52 hours Community Health Representative Advanced 48 hours of online coursework 12 hours of live Zoom coursework/skills Total: 52 hours Community Health Aide Foundations Course - Anatomy and Physiology: 45hrs - Medical Math and Measurements: 30 hours Total: 75 hours	- Take vital signs - Transport patients to and from medical appointments, and medication delivery. - Serve as a link to service referrals, and aftercare - Home checks for elders (medication box filling, fall check) - Community education & health promotion - Counsel patients on metered-dose inhalers, blood glucose monitors, safe sexual health
CHA	Community Health Aide 101 186 hours of online coursework 30 hours onsite skills 24 hours clinical Total: 240 hours Community Health Aide 102 112 hours of online coursework 56 hours onsite skills 72 hours clinical Total: 240 hours Community Health Aide Internship 200 clinical hours Total: 680 hours to earn a Community Health Aide Certification	- Eligible for CHA Certification - CHA can work alone in a clinic - May have standing orders to treat simple conditions without reporting to the provider - See acute care patients - See chronic patients - Elder screening & recheck visits - STI screening & treatment
CHP	Community Health Practitioner 201 80 hours of online coursework 40 hours of onsite skills 120 hours of clinical Total: 240 hours Community Health Practitioner 202 72 hours of online coursework 48 hours onsite skills 120 hours of clinical Total: 240 hours Community Health Practitioner Internship 200 hours of clinical Community Health Practitioner Preceptorship 100 hours (combined Assessments, Skills, and Clinicals) Total: 780 hours to earn a Community Health Aide Practitioner Certification	- Eligible for Community Health Aide Practitioner certification - See return prenatal patients - Well-child visits - Preventative health, pap smears, CBE - Eldercare & emergent care



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WHAT IS THE EHAM AND THE ECHAMP?

The Electronic Health Aide Manual (eHAM) is a platform to host content for all CHAP disciplines; Community Health, Behavioral Health, and Dental Health Aides. The Electronic Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual for Practice (eCHAMP) is a sub-component of the eHAM that contains all CHA/P practice content. The eCHAMP is used as an electronic textbook during CHA/P training. The curriculum is ultimately guided by the content of the eCHAMP.

DO COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONERS HAVE TO USE THE ECHAMP?

Use of the eCHAMP by Community Health Aide/Practitioners is mandatory from the beginning to the end of each patient visit.

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE TYPICALLY IN A CHA SESSION CLASS & COHORT?

There are typically two CHA students per instructor, CHAs attend clinicals individually with instructors during their education. The online portion of instruction will be open to a larger group of students and may vary.

CHA/P LICENSURE OR CERTIFICATION?

As CHA/Ps progress through training, they become eligible for certification at each level. The Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB) is responsible for certifying the CHA/Ps who meet the criteria for certification outlined in the standards and procedures. CHA/Ps practice under the auspice of a licensed physician. They also consult and collaborate with advanced practice providers in day-to-day clinical patient care.
<https://www.tchpp.org/aboutpaccb>

DOES A CHA/P NEED TO COMPLETE CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS/COURSES LIKE OTHER PROVIDERS?

Yes, CHA/Ps have a minimum CE requirement to meet every two years in order to maintain their certification with the Portland Area CHAP Certification Board.

DO CHA/PS HAVE TO COMPLETE A PRECEPTORSHIP AND CERTIFICATION EXAM PERIODICALLY?

Yes, CHA/Ps are required to complete both at regular intervals to maintain their Community Health Practitioner certification.

WHO HIRES THE CHA/P?

Individual Tribal Health Organizations will be responsible for hiring and funding CHA/Ps to work within their organization.

HOW MUCH DO CHA/PS GET PAID?

This is a function and determination of the individual Tribal Health Organization.



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ARE CHA/P SERVICE BILLABLE?

Currently, no services are billable in the Medicaid or CMS fee schedules. The NPAIHB is currently working with Oregon, Washington, and Idaho state Medicaid programs to develop avenues for billing. This may include a Medicaid state plan amendment that covers CHA/P providers so that services can be billed.

WHAT MEASURES ARE TAKEN TOWARD QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM?

Medical Providers will provide full supervision, chart reviews, routine reporting, observe patient visits and standing orders testing. PACCB certifies CHA/P's and training/education centers to ensure quality assurance.

ARE CHA/P SERVICES RENDERED ON OR OFF TRIBAL LANDS?

Community Health Aides (CHAs) will be authorized to provide services in IHS and Tribal health programs within their respective service delivery area.

WHO SUPERVISES THE CHA/PS?

A Physician (MD, DO) will be assigned to provide oversight to CHA/P's. A referral provider by proxy can be identified, which can include other physicians, Physician Associate's or Nurse Practitioner's

WHO RETAINS THE LIABILITY FOR HEALTH AIDE PRACTICE?

The Community Health Aide/Practitioner will be covered[1] by the federal Tort Claims Act. <https://www.ihs.gov/riskmanagement/ftca/>

CAN CHA/PS TAKE CALL?

Yes, CHA/P's can independently take calls for medical facilities. they must have a referral provider (by proxy) to contact for oversight.

CAN CHA/PS WORK ALONE IN THE MEDICAL CLINIC AND SEE PATIENTS INDEPENDENTLY?

Yes, CHA/Ps are trained to execute patient visits independently. They will consult with a preceptor (MD, NP, PA) and or supervising physician when needed. They are required to have a supervising provider (MD) to report patients to for oversight, at all times.

CAN CHA/PS PRESCRIBE MEDICATION?

No, CHA/Ps are not able to prescribe medications. CHA/Ps are approved to dispense medications according to the plans in the electronic Community Health Aide Manual for Practice (eCHAMP).



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HOW LONG DO CHA/PS TYPICALLY SPEND WITH PATIENTS?

CHA/P patient visits typically last one hour. The CHA/P will be consulting the electronic Community Health Aide Manual for Practice (eCHAMP) throughout the entire visit.

WHAT AREAS OF PRACTICE DOES CHA/P EDUCATION FOCUS ON?

Acute, emergent, chronic, and preventative care.

WHEN WAS THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM (CHAP) APPROVED?

The Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) is the cornerstone legal authority for the provision of health care to American Indians/Alaska Natives, was made permanent when President Obama signed the bill on March 13, 2010, as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. In 2020 CHAP was approved and authorized with the approval of the IHS circular 20-06.

<https://www.hhs.gov/guidance/document/indian-health-circular-20-06>

WHERE CAN I ATTEND TRAINING & BECOME CERTIFIED? WILL EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS BE IN PERSON OR ONLINE?

All training coursework will be held in separate hybrid (in-person and online) sessions. CHA students will be able to choose to pursue a Community Health Aide certificate through the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board.

WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITE FOR A CHA/P?

Candidates for the CHA/P must have a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent and have completed the CHR Core course. A math and reading test will be administered to demonstrate meeting minimum math and readings requirements. Must be fluent in reading, speaking, and writing in the English language

HOW MUCH TIME IS GOING TO TAKE TO SUPERVISE A CHA/P?

Supervising Physicians may have less time requirements, unless they are also holding the role of the CMP. The time commitment while a CHA/P is going through training:

- Estimate 5-10 minutes for each patient they see
- Allowing 30 minutes a day for chart review & questions
- Time will lessen over time as the CHA/P gains knowledge & skills.
- Upon completion of training, estimated 30 minutes a day for chart reviews & questions.



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SUPERVISORY ROLES FOR CHA/P'S?

Supervising Physician

- must be an MD or DO
- Responsible for signing the consulting provider agreement (CPA's)
- Hold the licensure under which the Health Aide practice.
- May collaborate with the CMP.

Supervising Physician

- Can be a PA, NP, ND, MD, or DO that work with the NPAIHB.
- Responsible for the skills training & knowledge education of the CHA/P.
- Provide weekly mentor check-ins.

On Sight Supervisor

- Someone in a managerial or human resource role at the sight of the CHA/P is practicing.
- In charge of day-to-day, on sight issues such as approving timesheets & leave.

Consulting Medical Provider (CMP)

- Physician Associate (PA-C), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), working for a Tribal health organization or the Federal Government and must hold a current license in the practicing state.
- Responsible for day-to-day consultation of patients.
- Quarterly patient chart review.
- Responsible for individual Clinical Learning Needs (ICLN's) after each quarter
- Offer recommendations on the CPA's to the Supervising Physician
- Oversee a maximum of 6 CHA/P's per provider

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