

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER

Tribal Community Health Provider Program
www.tchpp.org



WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER (CHA/P)?

CHA/P's 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.

WHAT HEALTHCARE SERVICES DO CHA/PS PROVIDE?

There are two CHA levels and the top level, Community Health Practitioner (CHP). The scope of practice for each provider advances from one level to the next. Depending on their level of certification, CHA/Ps can provide services such as:

- Emergency care
- History and patient examinations and follow up
- Carrying out physicians treatment recommendations
- Patient and family focused education and instruction
- Preventive health programs
- Infection and disease control
- Immunizations
- Select appropriate prescription medication

CHR TO CHP PATHWAY



WHY CHA/P'S FOR TRIBAL HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS & COMMUNITIES?

Increased clinical services and wrap around care

Homegrown, culturally knowledgeable providers

Increased continuity of care

Local professional wage job opportunities for local community members.

Provides a unique opportunity for Tribes to improve current health & education systems

A solution to recruitment & retention in tribal health care systems

SCAN FOR CHA FAQ



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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.

CHR	Hours Per Week	Homework Load
CHR Core	52h over 8 weeks	Students should expect 1-2 hours of homework per week.
CHR Advanced	52h over 6 weeks	Students should expect 1-2 hours of homework per week.
CHA Foundations	Hours Per Week	Homework Load
Student Success	20h over 5 weeks	Students should expect 5 hours of homework per week.
Medical Math & <u>Epocrates</u>	36h over 6 weeks	Students should expect 5 hours of homework per week.
Anatomy/Physiology and Medical Language	60h over 6 weeks	Students should expect 5 hours of homework per week.
BLS	8h	-
EHR	Dependent on THO	-
EMR	50h over 2 weeks	-
CHA	Hours Per Week	Homework Load
CHA 101	20h per week for 12 weeks	In addition to the 181 hours of online coursework, CHA 101 includes one 35-hour week of in person skills training and 24 hours of participation in direct patient care. Students should expect 5-10 hours per week of homework.
CHA 102	20h per week for 12 weeks	In addition to 125 hours of online coursework, CHA 102 includes one 35-hour week of in person skills training and 80 hours of participation in direct patient care. Students should expect 5-10 hours per week of homework.
CHA Internship	40h per week for 5 weeks	The CHA Internship consists of 35 hours per week of direct patient care. Students should expect 5 hours per week of homework



COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW TO BECOME A COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PRACTITIONER (CONTINUED.....)

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.

CHP	Hours per week	Homework Load
CHP 201	20h per week for 12 weeks	In addition to 77 hours of online coursework, CHP 201 includes one 35-hour week of in person skills training and 128 hours of participation in direct patient care. Students should expect 5-10 hours per week of homework.
CHP 202	20h per week for 12 weeks	In addition to 77 hours of online coursework, CHP 202 includes one 35-hour week of in person skills training and 128 hours of participation in direct patient care. Students should expect 5-10 hours per week of homework.
CHP Internship	40h per week for 5 weeks	The CHP Internship consists of 35 hours per week of direct patient care. Students should expect 5 hours per week of homework.
Preceptorship	100h over three weeks	80 hours of direct patient care and 20 hours evaluation and testing
Sole Provider Course (optional)	60h over 6 weeks	10 hours per week of knowledge, skills and clinicals directed at CHAP's who will serve in sole provider clinics and require greater expertise in long term emergency care, clinic management, etc. Students should expect 5-10 hours per week of homework.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHAT IS THE ECHAMP?

The Electronic Community Health Aide/Practitioner Manual for Practice (eCHAMP) is a website and iPad app that contains all CHA/P practice content. The eCHAMP is used as an electronic textbook during CHA/P training, and as a resource during CHA/P practice. 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. CHA/P are health care providers so their pay scales should reflect their scope of practice.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



ARE CHA/P SERVICES BILLABLE?

Yes, the NPAIHB team is currently working with Oregon, Washington, and Idaho state Medicaid programs to develop billing infrastructure so that claims can be submitted to the Medicaid programs for reimbursement.

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 on an ongoing basis.

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

Certified Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHA/Ps) are authorized to provide services in IHS funded 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 is covered by the federal Tort Claims Act. <https://www.ihs.gov/riskmanagement/ftca/>. Health Aides can also be covered by other liability malpractice insurances.

CAN CHA/PS TAKE CALL?

Yes, CHA/P's can independently take calls for medical facilities. they must have a consulting 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 perform patient visits independently. They will consult with a consulting provider (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 select medications according to the plans in the electronic Community Health Aide Manual for Practice (eCHAMP).



COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE/PRACTITIONER

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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) 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, a new and revised circular 20-14 will be released soon.

<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 coursework will be held in hybrid (in-person and online) sessions. CHA/P students will be able to choose to pursue a Community Health Aide/Practitioner certificate through the Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB).

WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITE FOR A CHA/P?

Candidates for the CHA/P Program must have a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent. Also completed the CHA Foundations course, and the CHR Core course (equivalent to pre-session). 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

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT FOR SUPERVISING PHYSICIANS?

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
- Allow 30 minutes a day for chart review & questions
- Requirements 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.

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

CHA/P CLINICAL HOUR REQUIREMENTS BY QUARTER

- CHA 101: 24 hours over a 12-week time period.
- CHA 102: 80 hours over a 12-week time period.
- CHA Internship: 35 hours/week over a 5-week time period.
- CHP 201: 128 hours over a 12-week time period.
- CHP 202: 128 hours over a 12-week time period.
- CHP Internship: 35 hours/week over a 5-week time period.
- CHP Preceptorship: 80 hours over a 3-week time period.

AFTER TRAINING IS COMPLETE

- About 30-60 minutes a day for conducting chart reviews, meet with the health aide to answer any questions.
- This will lessen over time as the CHA/P gains knowledge and skills.

LEARN MORE:

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