



# SCPE Patient Exposures

## **Background and Purpose:**

Physician assistant students are trained in the generalist model and therefore require a broad spectrum of patient exposure types. The purpose of this policy is to define the UC PA Program's approach to ensuring its students are sufficiently exposed to the variety of patient encounters required during their supervised clinical practice experiences sufficient to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for entry-level PA practice.

## **Policy and Practice Statement:**

In reference to the standards cited below, the UC PA program:

Has developed minimum required benchmarks for patient exposure types during supervised clinical practice experiences encompassing the following categories:

- **Encounter Type:** Preventive Care, Emergent Care, Acute Care, Chronic Care
- **Lifespan Care:** Infants (less than 2y), Children (2-10y), Adolescents (11-17y), Adults (18-64y), Elderly (65+)
- **Women's Health:** Prenatal, Gynecologic Care
- **Surgical Management:** Pre-Operative Care, Intraoperative Care, Post-Operative Care
- **Practice Setting:** Outpatient, Inpatient, Emergency Department, Operating Room
- **Other:** Behavioral and Mental Health Conditions

Assessment of student performance in meeting these benchmarks is fulfilled through the use of patient clinical tracking software. Student progress in meeting the benchmarks is formally reviewed at specific times throughout the student's clinical year. As part of the program's self-assessment process, the benchmarks are evaluated and modified as appropriate annually.

## Patient Exposure Benchmarks

Patient Exposure Category	Benchmark (# encounters)
Total Encounters	1000
<b>Encounter Type</b>	
Preventive Care	50
Emergent Care	20
Acute Care	200
Chronic Care	200
<b>Lifespan Care</b>	
Infants (<1y)	20
Children (1-10y)	50
Adolescents (11-18y)	20
Adults (19-64y)	250
Elderly (65+)	200
<b>Women's Health</b>	
Prenatal Care	20
Gynecologic Care	50
<b>Practice Setting</b>	
Outpatient	400
Inpatient	100
Emergency Department	75
Operating Room	15
<b>Other</b>	
Behavioral/Mental Health	50

## **ARC-PA Associated Standards:**

- **B3.02** – Supervised clinical practice experiences must enable students to meet program expectations and acquire the competencies needed for clinical PA practice. ANNOTATION: It is expected that the program expectations of students will address the types of patient encounters essential to preparing them for entry into practice. It is expected that at a minimum these will include preventive, emergent, acute, and chronic patient encounters.
- **B3.03** – Supervised clinical practice experiences must provide sufficient patient exposure to allow each student to meet program-defined requirements with patients seeking:
  - a) medical care across the life span to include, infants, children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly
  - b) women’s health (to include prenatal and gynecologic care)
  - c) care for conditions requiring surgical management, including pre-operative, intraoperative, post-operative care and
  - d) care for behavioral and mental health conditions.
- **B3.04** – Supervised clinical practice experiences must occur in the following settings:
  - a) outpatient
  - b) emergency department
  - c) inpatient and
  - d) operating room.

ANNOTATION: While patients often use emergency departments for primary care complaints, students are expected to interact with patients needing emergent care in this setting. Urgent care centers may be used for supervised clinical practice experiences, but do not replace the requirement to have students in emergency departments.