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Curriculum Vitae

Summary of Expertise

Neurosurgical Physician Assistant/Physician Associate (PA-C) with 7+ years of contributions to the specialty as a clinician, educator, mentor, and advocate. I have accumulated over 1500+ neurosurgical cases as a Physician Associate and first assistant. I take neurosurgery first call for the emergency department, transfer center and critical care settings at multiple hospitals including a designated Level 1 Trauma Center. My expertise includes inpatient and outpatient initial consultations, daily management of routine and complex neurosurgical conditions, pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative surgical management.

Neurosurgical Procedures and Diagnoses of Expertise Include:

Cranial:

Subarachnoid hemorrhage
Subdural hematoma
Hydrocephalus
Intraventricular Hemorrhage
Intracranial Hemorrhage
Hemorrhagic stroke
Aneurysm
Brain Tumors (meningioma, glioma)
Traumatic Brain injury
Cerebral Abscess
Pseudotumor cerebri
Chiari Malformation
Craniotomy/Craniectomy
CSF Diversion (VP shunt, LP shunt)
External Ventricular Drain/EVD

Intracranial Pressure Monitors/
Deep Brain Stimulation
Tremor

Spine:

Stenosis
Cauda Equina Syndrome
Radiculopathy
Scoliosis
Fractures
Spine Deformity
Trauma
Spinal Cord injury
CSF leak
Epidural abscess
Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fusion (ACDF)

Laminectomy
Microdiscectomy
Posterior Spinal Instrumented Fusions
Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion (TLIF)

Oblique and Direct Lateral Interbody Fusion
(OLIF/XLIF)
Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion (ALIF)
Laminoplasty
Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery techniques

Professional Experience

Nashville Neurosurgery Associates | Neurosurgery Physician Associate | Nashville, TN | 2019 – Present

- Surgical First Assist and Co-Operator to the primary/attending neurosurgeon demonstrating competency in a broad range of surgical skills and techniques for emergent cases, trauma cases and elective cases.
- First call covering 1-3 hospitals including a level I trauma center: ED, transfer center, ICU, and floor patients. First call responsibilities range between 12-24hrs and an average of 15 days/nights per month. Function as the first neurosurgery contact to evaluate, treat, and provide recommendations for patients transferred to Skyline Medical Center, Southern Hills Medical Center, Summit Medical Center, and Centennial Medical Center.
- Preoperative surgical patient optimization which includes patient evaluation, obtaining any necessary labs, imaging, or additional testing.
- Primary liaison to the Transfer Center and Emergency Department for new patients at local and outlying facilities requesting neurosurgical consultations.
- Completion of History and Physicals for outpatients preparing for surgery and inpatient new consultations.
- Prompt completion of discharge summaries.
- Patient and family education regarding surgical procedure risks, benefits, expectations, alternatives to surgery, indications for surgery, goals of surgery, post operative care instructions, and overall prognosis.
- Complete daily adjustments to plan of care and interventions for patient management in collaboration with the attending neurosurgeon.
- Management of lumbar drains, external ventricular drains, and intracranial pressure monitors adhering to the current standard of care and guidelines.
- Order and manage appropriate medications and interventions for intracranial pressure management guided by the current neurosurgical standard of care and guidelines.
- Review and interpret imaging and radiology reports for CT, MRI, and X-Rays to obtain diagnosis and guide treatment.
- Collaborate with attending neurosurgeon in the overall operative and non-operative management of each patient.

- Collaborate with attending neurosurgeon in the admission, treatment and discharge of all neurosurgical consultations.
- Contribute to multidisciplinary family discussions regarding end of life care when appropriate.
- Daily evaluation and interpretation of new laboratory data, imaging, answer questions from other specialties and nursing team, serve as primary adjunct to attending neurosurgeon.
- Daily rounding on all assigned neurosurgical patients at up to four local hospitals.
- Order and interpret diagnostic studies including labs and imaging.
- Preparation of daily rounds, multidisciplinary rounds and discharge planning rounds including collection and analysis of complications/information to guide decision making processes and potential consultation of other specialties when appropriate.
- Primary liaison for scheduling neurosurgery procedures to the Preoperative and Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU).
- Review all medical records prior to surgery to optimize patient care.
- Initiate and complete admission of patients to the hospital, including medication reconciliation, nursing guidance, and overall direction of daily treatment. Responsible for discharge and follow up needs for all patients admitted to the neurosurgery service under the care of the attending neurosurgeon.
- Tertiary assessment on all assigned inpatients including daily progress notes, recommendations, and orders in collaboration with the attending neurosurgeon.
- Prescribe appropriate medications at discharge for patients under the care of the neurosurgery service.
- Initiate and perform lifesaving procedures including external ventricular drain placement, intracranial pressure monitors, Shunt taps, Shunt interrogation at bedside in the ER or ICU in collaboration with the attending neurosurgeon.
- Communicate directly with nursing supervisor and operating room director regarding “Emergent/Trauma/Critical” neurosurgical cases to be immediately scheduled including accurate information for booking the case with essential equipment, and positioning to optimize patient care.
- Perform thorough physical examinations, obtain detailed patient histories, prescribe medications, and counsel patients and families on recommended treatments.
- Performs positioning of patients in the operating prior to incision and “Time Out.”
- Responsible for routine education and updates for the families of critically ill patients. Attend multidisciplinary family education meetings when available.
- Perform routine dissections, exposures, and closures of intraoperative surgical wounds in collaboration with the attending neurosurgeon.
- Prepare and utilize intraoperative navigation tools when appropriate (Stealth Axium, Stealth Optical).
- Interpret intraoperative neuromonitoring findings in collaboration with attending neurosurgeon
- Primary liaison to outlying facilities requesting potential transfer of patients for neurosurgical services including review and interpretation of medical records and imaging in conjunction with attending neurosurgeon.

- Provide thorough and accurate “sign out” of all assigned patients when transferring care to incoming call team (APP/neurosurgeon) assuming management of the neurosurgery service.
- Daily, thorough neurological examination on all assigned inpatients with associated documentation.
- Outpatient Clinic Responsibilities:
 - Initial new patient consultations
 - Order appropriate workup including imaging, labs, referrals to other specialists and healthcare providers
 - Education and counseling
 - Determine return to work timeline and restrictions/precautions
 - Communicate with primary care provider, physical therapists, trauma team, and other healthcare providers to facilitate optimal care coordination
 - Post operative care, wound evaluations and guidance
 - Non operative trauma follow up care for neurosurgical needs
 - Order and interpret on site radiographs

Additional Healthcare Employment

Mercy Health | Physical Therapist (DPT) | Toledo, OH & Springfield, OH | 2015 – 2019

- Provide inpatient physical therapy consultation to patients within the Neuro ICU and CVICU.
- Contribute to an interdisciplinary team consisting of Physicians, PAs, Nurses, and other healthcare providers.

Physical Therapy Consulting Services | Physical Therapist (DPT) | Columbus, OH | 2015 – 2016

- Lead clinician for rehabilitation team specialized in neurologic pathology including multiple sclerosis, stroke, dementia, traumatic brain injury, and Parkinson’s disease, spinal cord injury.
- Educate staff and multidisciplinary team regarding most current rehabilitation protocols, neurological examination techniques, and outcome measures.

Education

University of Toledo College of Medicine	2016 - 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physician Assistant – NCCPA Certified Toledo, OH Master of Science in Biomedical Science (MSBS)	
The Ohio State University	2012 - 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Columbus, OH Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)	
University of Dayton	2008 - 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dayton, OH Bachelor of Science	

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)	2016 – Present
Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistants (TAPA)	2018 - Present
American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)	2012 - 2016

Licenses and Certifications

NCCPA Physician Associate Certified (PA-C)	2019 - Present
Tennessee Medical License (#3828)	2019 - Present
DEA license	2019 - Present
Emergency Neurologic Life Support (ENLS) Certified	2018 - Present
Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Certified	2018 - Present
Tennessee Physical Therapy License (#12325)	2018 - Present

Additional Healthcare Experience and Leadership

Graduate Student Association (GSA) President | Toledo, OH | March 2017 – May 2018

- Elected President of the Graduate Student at the University of Toledo by the 5,000 Graduate/Professional student body.
- Led executive board in the management of a \$154,000 budget devoted to the professional development of graduate students.
- Organized and implemented informative monthly general assembly meetings communicating latest opportunities and initiatives at the university and within the graduate school.
- Implemented and distributed financial assistance for graduate students to organize professional development workshops and present research at nationally renowned conferences.
- Appointed winners of the annual Graduate Student Research Award.
- Served as advocate and representative for the graduate student body to the University of Toledo Graduate Council, Graduate Council Executive Committee, President's Council, and Provost.
- Co-lead symposium coordinator for the Midwest Graduate Research Symposium (MGRS).

Graduate Student Association (GSA) | Toledo, OH | August 2016 – March 2017

- Elected as Communication Specialist of the GSA: updated all website social media outlets.
- Served as the student representative for the College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

Touchstone Rehabilitation | Scottsdale, AZ | 2014

- 2-month specialized rotation in the post-operative management and rehabilitation of patients who has suffered traumatic brain injury.
- Emphasis on Ranchos Los Amigos progression, Glasgow Coma Scale, neuromuscular re-education, task-oriented training, constraint induced therapy, functional mobility restoration, wheelchair skills, gait training, and community re-integration.
- Application of various durable medical equipment and prosthetics through Southwest Medical and Hangar.
- Supplemental training opportunity at Team EXOS (formerly Athlete's Performance institute to observe the rehabilitation and performance training of collegiate football players preparing for the NFL combine.

Cleveland Clinic | Cleveland, OH | 2014

- Inpatient physical therapy rotation emphasizing evaluation and early mobility within the Neuro ICU

- Conducted in-service for the inpatient rehabilitation department regarding evidence supporting the clinical application and prognostic value of gait speed.

Champion Sports Medicine | Andrew Sports Medicine Institute | Birmingham, AL | 2014

- Outpatient orthopedic and sports physical therapy with an emphasis on post-operative management, evidence-based practice, and clinical application of current research for the return to sport of high school and collegiate athletes.
- Weekly Evidenced based lectures hosted by the Andrew Sports Medicine Institute (ASMI). Topics include peripheral nerve entrapments, sports psychology, advances in the rehabilitation of the overhead throwing athlete, and femoroacetabular impingement, UCL reconstruction, labral repair, meniscectomy, RCR with stem cell injection, and platelet rich plasma (PRP) injections.

National Board for Persons with Disabilities | Junior Board Member | Columbus, OH | 2013 -2016

- Re-structured and organized the board under the guidance and supervision of Pat Mahoney, PT.
- Evaluated and adjusted the role, function, and involvement of the board within the local community.
- Functions of the board included community education to raise awareness for persons with disabilities, funding installation of adaptive equipment and home modifications, and aiding individuals with financial needs.

Franklin County board of Developmental Disabilities | Columbus, OH | 2012 - 2015

- Certified Care Provider – Cerebral palsy

Awards and Honors

Robert D. Kruse Memorial Scholarship | The Cleveland Clinic

Past President's Leadership Scholarship | Ohio Association of Physician Assistants

General Scholarship | Ohio Association of Physician Assistants

J. David Michaels Scholarship | University of Toledo

Tillotson Scholarship | University of Toledo

Lynn Wallace Scholarship | The Ohio State University

Magna Cum Laude | University of Dayton

Scholar Athlete | University of Dayton

Dean's Merit Scholarship | University of Dayton

References available upon request
