

Matrix specification of Core Clinical Conditions for the Physician Assistant* by category of level of competence

(WORKING DOCUMENT TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMPETENCE AND CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK FOR THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT, DH SEPTEMBER 2006)

* Physician Assistant is the working title which replaces the previous working title of Medical Care Practitioner following the suggestions received through the public consultation process. It is recognised that the title will remain a working title until the role is regulated by the appropriate regulator.

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The categorisation of core clinical conditions, which are illustrated in matrix format on pages 9 to 28, will need to be maintained and governed by the profession and will require constant updating as the profession develops and as service needs change.

Contents

Specification of core clinical conditions	2
Model for categorising clinical conditions on the basis of required competence	3
Examples of core conditions matrices	5
Matrix showing indicative conditions across the full range of system categories	5
Example of a complete single system matrix: the cardiovascular system	6
Example of core conditions related to a particular disease process: infection	7
Example of a condition matrix for a clinical presentation: chest pain	8
Core Clinical Conditions	9
Conditions in category 1A	9
Conditions in category 1B	16
Conditions in category 2A	24
Conditions in category 2B	25

Specification of core clinical conditions

The model on the following page describes a two-dimensional categorisation – the X axis referring to competence in undertaking the diagnostic process and the Y axis referring to competence in managing the condition. This model of conditions is then used in the systems-based lists on subsequent pages.

The categorisation of conditions relates to the expected competence on qualification. Depending on local arrangements and arrangement with the supervising practitioner, experience post-qualification within a particular field may draw conditions from a lower to a higher category (e.g. 2B to 1A) However, it is key to the Physician Assistant role that, whatever their current field of practice, they maintain competence across the breadth of clinical conditions outlined in this section: i.e. conditions may not be allowed to 'slip' from category 1A to 2B.

Following the explanation of the core condition matrix, this section gives four examples of matrices as follows:

- examples of indicative conditions across the full range of systems;
- a complete example of the specification for one system;
- an example of specification on the basis of a disease process; and
- an example of specification of conditions on the basis of a clinical presentation.

Model for categorising clinical conditions on the basis of required competence

X axis: Is the Physician Assistant competent to take a significant role in the diagnostic process?

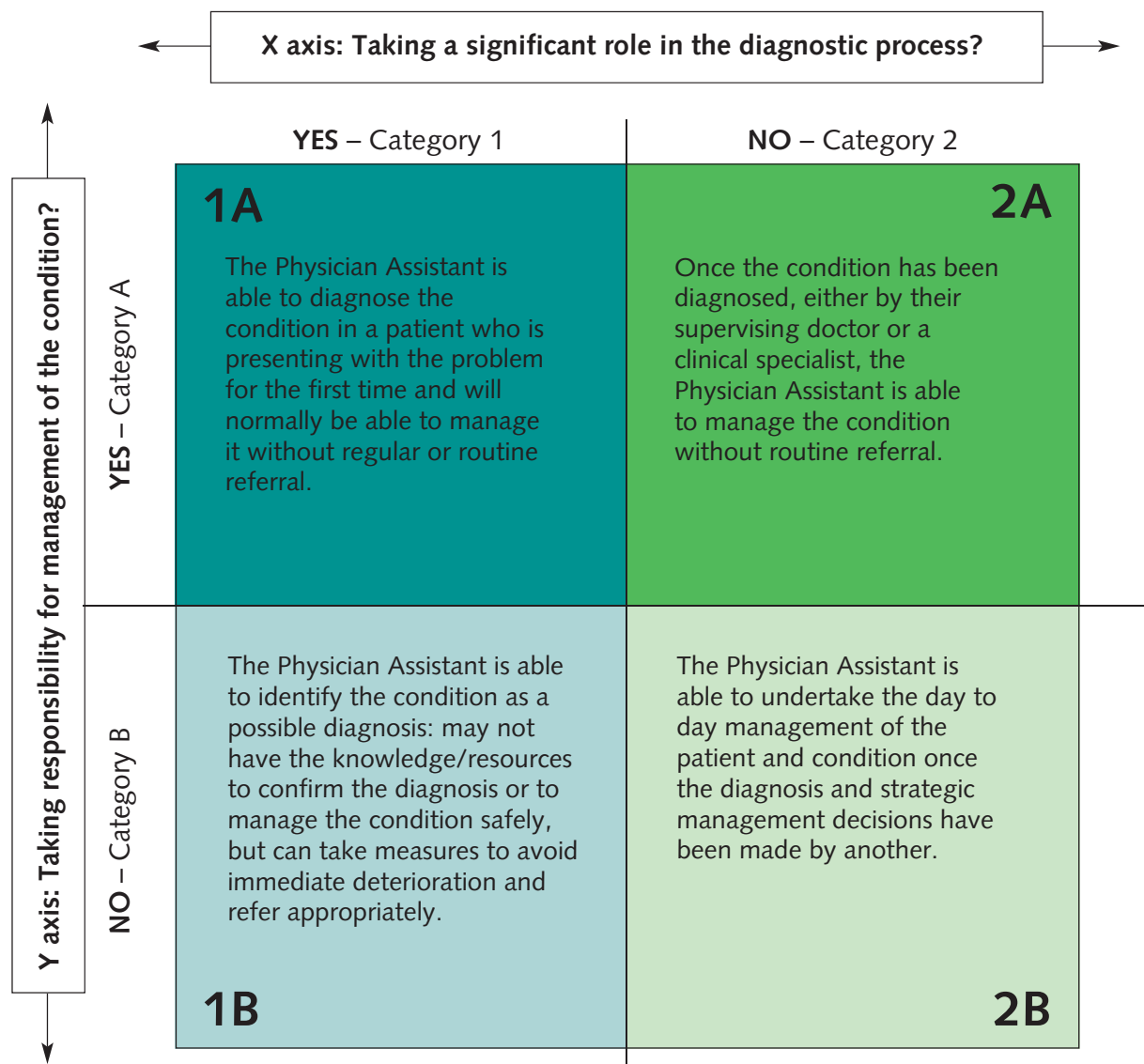
YES: Category 1 The Physician Assistant is able to identify a condition as a possibility within differential diagnoses and to take measures to confirm or refute the diagnosis.

NO: Category 2 The Physician Assistant is aware of the condition, but does not necessarily have the knowledge or resources to make the diagnosis.

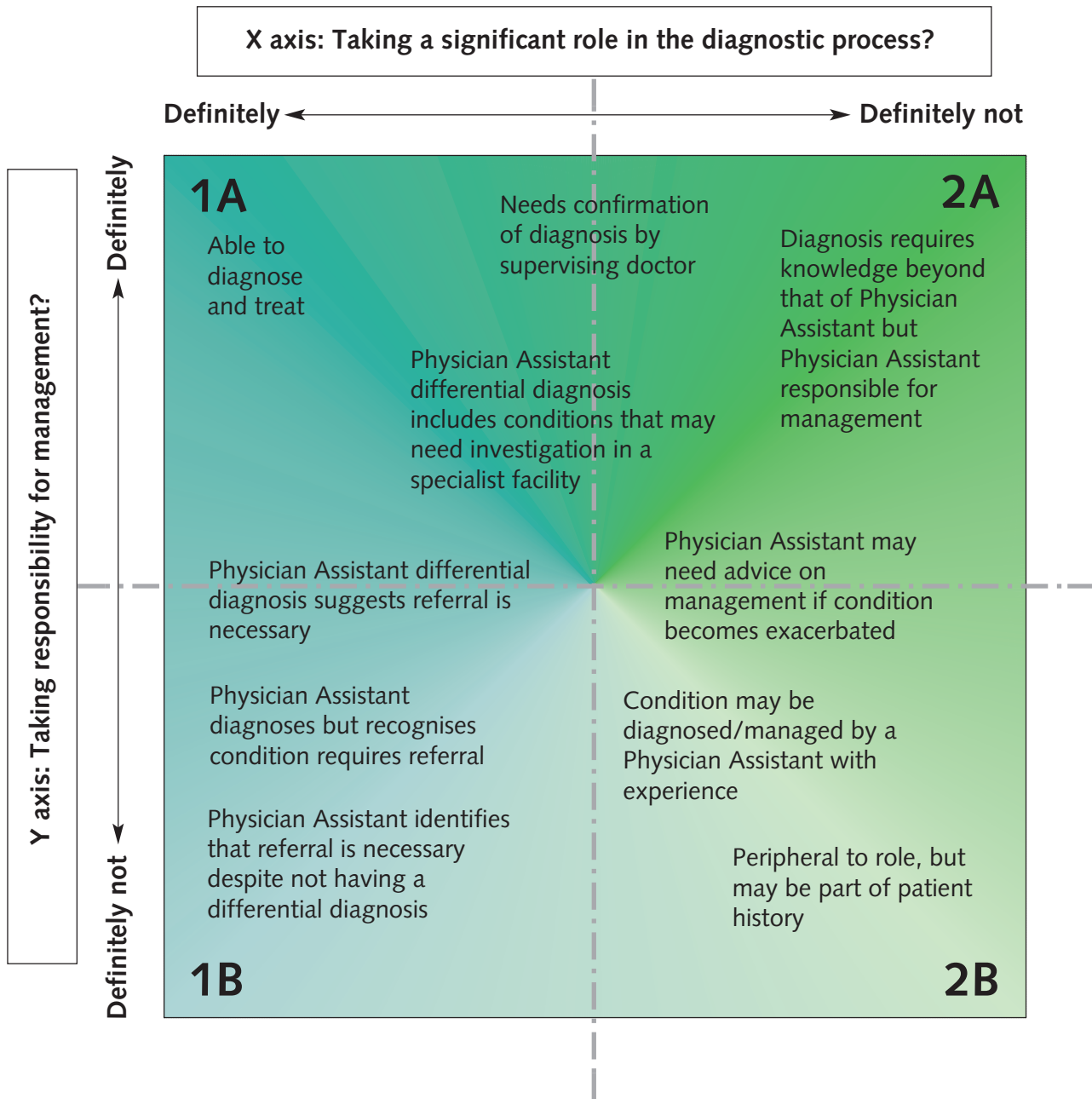
Y axis: Is the Physician Assistant competent to take responsibility for management of the condition?

YES: Category A The Physician Assistant is able to manage the uncomplicated condition without routine referral to others.

NO: Category B The Physician Assistant participates in the management of the condition, but does not take a lead role in determining the management strategy.



As with most models, this is something of an oversimplification of reality. Relatively simple conditions may be complicated by the personal circumstances of the patient, their reaction to the disease process or some other underlying health problem. Equally, a Physician Assistant may already be familiar with a non-core condition because of prior experience. However, whilst the following diagram may be closer to the truth, we believe that the simplified model is a more appropriate basis for the development of curricula.



Examples of core conditions matrices

Matrix showing indicative conditions across the full range of system categories

		Taking a significant role in the diagnostic process?	
		Yes	No
Taking responsibility for management?	Yes	1A Mental health: depression Cardiovascular: essential hypertension Respiratory: acute bronchitis Gastro-intestinal: gastroenteritis Musculoskeletal: gout Eye: corneal abrasions Ear, nose and throat: acute otitis media Female reproductive: dysmenorrhoea Neurological: migraine Metabolic and endocrine: hyperkalaemia Renal and GU: cystitis Dermatological: atopic eczema Haematological: folate deficiency Sexual health: contraceptive advice Systemic infection: measles	2A Mental health: dysthymic disorder Cardiovascular: giant cell arteritis Musculoskeletal: rheumatoid arthritis Neurological: partial/partial complex seizures Metabolic and endocrine: hypertriglyceridaemia
	No	1B Mental health: phobias Cardiovascular: acute myocardial infarction Respiratory: acute epiglottitis Gastro-intestinal: acute pancreatitis Musculoskeletal: fracture of the hip Eye: cataract Ear, nose and throat: mastoiditis Female reproductive: placenta previa Neurological: nerve entrapment, eg carpal tunnel Metabolic and endocrine: thyroiditis Renal and GU: testicular carcinoma Dermatological: basal cell carcinoma Haematological: aplastic anaemia Sexual health: gonococcal infections Systemic infection: malaria	2B Mental health: autistic disorder Cardiovascular: dilated cardiomyopathy Respiratory: tuberculosis Gastro-intestinal: pancreatic neoplasms Musculoskeletal: juvenile rheumatoid arthritis Eye: hyphaema Ear, nose and throat: acoustic neuromas Female reproductive: carcinoma cervix Neurological: Guillain-Barré syndrome Metabolic and endocrine: acromegaly Renal and GU: renal vasculitis Dermatological: lichen simplex chronicus Haematological: G6PD deficiency Systemic infection: toxoplasmosis

Example of a complete single system matrix: The Cardiovascular System

		Taking a significant role in the diagnostic process?			
		Yes	No		
Yes	1A	Hypertension	2A		
		Essential			
		Isolated systolic			
		Iatrogenic			
		Hypotension			
		Orthostatis/postural			
		Hypovolaemic shock			
	Vascular diseases				
	Phlebitis/thrombophlebitis				
	No	1B		Hypertension	2B
				Secondary	
				Malignant/accelerated	
				Hypotension	
				Cardiogenic shock	
Conduction disorders					
Bundle branch block					
Premature beats					
Atrioventricular block					
Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia					
Ventricular tachycardia					
Ventricular fibrillation/flutter					
Atrial fibrillation/flutter					
Vascular diseases					
Chronic/acute arterial occlusion					
Varicose veins					
Venous thrombosis					
Peripheral vascular disease					
Acute rheumatic fever					
Aortic aneurysm/dissection					
Arterial embolism/thrombosis					
Valvular disease					
Aortic stenosis/regurgitation					
Mitral stenosis/regurgitation					
Tricuspid stenosis/insufficiency					
Pulmonary stenosis/insufficiency					
Cardiac failure					
Ischaemic					
Valvular					
Hypertensive					
Ischaemic heart disease					
Acute myocardial infarction					
Angina pectoris					
• <i>Unstable</i>					
• <i>Prinzmetal's/variant</i>					
Other forms of heart disease					
Acute and subacute bacterial endocarditis					
Acute pericarditis					
Cardiac tamponade					
Pericardial effusion					
		Vascular diseases			
		Giant cell arteritis			
		Ischaemic heart disease			
		Angina pectoris			
		• <i>Stable</i>			
		Cardiomyopathy			
		Dilated			
		Hypertrophic			
		Restrictive			
		Congenital heart disease			
		Atrial septal defect			
		Ventricular septal defect			
		Coarctation of aorta			
		Patent ductus arteriosus			
		Tetralogy of Fallot			
		Valvular disease			
		Mitral valve prolapse			

Example of a condition matrix for a clinical presentation: Chest Pain

		Taking a significant role in the diagnostic process?																									
		Yes	No																								
Taking responsibility for management?	Yes	1A <table border="1"> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Respiratory</td></tr> <tr><td>Bacterial pneumonia</td></tr> <tr><td>Viral pneumonia</td></tr> <tr><td>Gastro-intestinal</td></tr> <tr><td>Oesophagitis</td></tr> <tr><td>Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease</td></tr> <tr><td>Dyspepsia</td></tr> <tr><td>Neurological</td></tr> <tr><td>Herpes zoster (of chest wall)</td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> </table>			Respiratory	Bacterial pneumonia	Viral pneumonia	Gastro-intestinal	Oesophagitis	Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease	Dyspepsia	Neurological	Herpes zoster (of chest wall)			2A <table border="1"> <tr><td>Cardiovascular</td></tr> <tr><td>Angina pectoris: stable</td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> </table>	Cardiovascular	Angina pectoris: stable									
	Respiratory																										
	Bacterial pneumonia																										
	Viral pneumonia																										
	Gastro-intestinal																										
	Oesophagitis																										
	Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease																										
	Dyspepsia																										
	Neurological																										
	Herpes zoster (of chest wall)																										
Cardiovascular																											
Angina pectoris: stable																											
No	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Mental health</td></tr> <tr><td>Panic disorder</td></tr> <tr><td>Cardiovascular</td></tr> <tr><td>Acute myocardial infarction</td></tr> <tr><td>Angina pectoris: unstable</td></tr> <tr><td>Angina pectoris: Prinzmetal's variant</td></tr> <tr><td>Respiratory</td></tr> <tr><td>Pulmonary embolism</td></tr> <tr><td>Pleurisy</td></tr> <tr><td>Gastro-intestinal</td></tr> <tr><td>Acute cholecystitis</td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> </table>	Mental health	Panic disorder	Cardiovascular	Acute myocardial infarction	Angina pectoris: unstable	Angina pectoris: Prinzmetal's variant	Respiratory	Pulmonary embolism	Pleurisy	Gastro-intestinal	Acute cholecystitis			<table border="1"> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Respiratory</td></tr> <tr><td>Fungal pneumonia</td></tr> <tr><td>HIV-related pneumonia</td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td></tr> </table>							Respiratory	Fungal pneumonia	HIV-related pneumonia			
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	1B	2B																									

Core Clinical Conditions

In this section the conditions are set out by category to bring together the whole range of conditions for which practitioners are expected to demonstrate a given level of capability. Within each category, individual conditions and disorders are ordered on the basis of 'body system/clinical field', and then 'broad disorder type'.

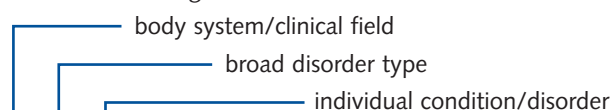
Whichever category conditions occur in, the coding for 'body system/clinical field' and the 'broad disorder type' will always be the same: e.g. conditions relating to Mental Health will always start with the coding 1 and within Mental Health, Eating Disorders will always start with the coding 1.3.

A particular broad disorder type does not necessarily appear in each category. Thus, in category 1A for example, the list of conditions goes straight from 1.1 (Mood Disorders) to 1.3 (Eating Disorders) because 1.2 (Anxiety Disorders) does not appear until category 1B. Similarly, individual conditions are coded across, rather than within individual categories, so that the list of Mood Disorders in Category 1B starts with 1.1.3 (bipolar) and in 2A starts with 1.1.4 (dysthymic disorder) following on from 1.1.2 (affective) in Category 1A.

Conditions in category 1A

The Physician Assistant is able to diagnose the following conditions in a patient who is presenting with the problem for the first time, and will normally be able to manage it without regular or routine referral.

The numbering below relates to



1			Mental Health
1	1		Mood Disorders
1	1	1	Depressive
1	1	2	Affective
1	3		Eating Disorders
1	3	1	Obesity
1	4		Substance Use Disorders
1	4	1	Tobacco use/dependence
1	4	2	Alcohol abuse/dependence
1	5		Other Behaviour/Emotional Disorders
1	5	1	Acute reaction to stress
1	5	2	Uncomplicated bereavement

Conditions in category 1A			
2			Cardiovascular
2	1		Hypertension
2	1	1	Essential
2	1	2	Isolated systolic
2	1	3	Iatrogenic
2	3		Hypotension
2	3	1	Orthostatic/postural
2	3	2	Hypovolaemic shock
2	4		Vascular Diseases
2	4	1	Phlebitis/thrombophlebitis
3			Respiratory
3	1		Infectious Respiratory Disorders
3	1	1	Acute Bronchitis
3	1	2	Influenza
3	1	3	Croup
3	1	4	Respiratory syncytial virus infection
3	1	5	Bacterial pneumonia
3	1	6	Viral pneumonia
3	2		Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
3	2	1	Chronic bronchitis
3	2	2	Emphysema
3	2	3	COPD
3	2	4	Asthma
3	7		Near Drowning
4			Gastro-Intestinal
4	1		Oesophagus
4	1	1	Oesophagitis
4	2		Stomach
4	2	1	Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease
4	2	2	Gastritis
4	2	3	Peptic ulcer disease
4	3		Small Intestine/Colon
4	3	1	Constipation/faecal impaction
4	3	2	Irritable bowel syndrome
4	3	3	Infectious diarrhoea
4	4		Rectum
4	4	1	Haemorrhoids
4	9		Other Gastro-Intestinal Conditions
4	9	1	Dyspepsia
4	9	2	Gastroenteritis
4	9	3	Acute poisoning

Conditions in category 1A		
5		Musculoskeletal
5 1		Disorders of the Shoulder
5 1 1		Sprain/strain
5 2		Disorders of the Forearm/Wrist/Hand
5 2 1		Sprains/strains
5 2 2		Tenosynovitis: <i>Epicondylitis</i>
5 3		Disorders of Back/Spine
5 3 1		Back strain/sprain
5 3 2		Back/neck pain
5 3 3		Injury (differential diagnosis – musc./neuro.)
5 5		Disorders of the Knee
5 5 1		Osgood-Schlatter disease
5 5 2		Sprains/strains
5 6		Disorders of the Ankle/Foot
5 6 1		Sprains/strains
5 7		Rheumatological Conditions
5 7 1		Fibromyalgia
5 7 2		Gout
5 7 3		Polymyalgia rheumatica
5 10		Other Musculoskeletal Problems
5 10 1		Osteoarthritis
5 10 2		Osteoporosis
6		Eye
6 1		Eye disorders
6 1 1		Blepharitis
6 1 2		Conjunctivitis
6 1 3		Corneal abrasion
6 1 4		Keratitis
6 1 5		Foreign body
6 1 6		Pterygium
6 1 7		Chalazion
6 1 8		Orbital cellulitis
6 1 9		Dacryoadenitis
7		Ear, Nose and Throat
7 1		Ear Disorders
7 1 1		Acute otitis media
7 1 2		Cerumen impaction
7 1 3		Labyrinthitis
7 1 4		Otitis externa
7 1 5		Vertigo
7 1 6		Chronic otitis media

Conditions in category 1A		
7		Ear, Nose and Throat (continued)
7 2		Nose/Sinus Disorders
7 2 1		Acute sinusitis
7 2 2		Allergic rhinitis
7 2 3		Epistaxis
7 2 4		Chronic sinusitis
7 2 5		Nasal polyps
7 3		Mouth/Throat Disorders
7 3 1		Acute pharyngitis
7 3 2		Acute tonsillitis
7 3 3		Aphthous ulcers
7 3 4		Laryngitis
7 3 5		Oral candidiasis
7 3 6		Oral herpes simplex
7 3 7		Parotitis
8		Female Reproductive
8 1		Uterus
8 1 1		Dysfunctional uterine bleeding
8 2		Cervix
8 2 1		Cervicitis
8 3		Vagina/Vulva
8 3 1		Vaginitis
8 5		Menstrual Disorders
8 5 1		Dysmenorrhoea
8 5 2		Premenstrual syndrome
8 6		Uncomplicated Pregnancy
8 6 1		Prenatal diagnosis/care
8 8		Menopausal Problems
9		Neurological
9 1		Diseases of Peripheral Nerves
9 1 1		Bell's palsy
9 2		Movement Disorders
9 2 1		Essential tremor
9 3		Headaches
9 3 1		Migraine
9 3 2		Tension headache
9 3 3		Cluster headache
9 8		Other Neurological Conditions
9 8 1		Shingles
9 8 2		Syncope
9 8 3		Neurological – seizures
9 8 4		cardiac-arrhythmias and valvular, carotid sinus
9 8 5		hypersensitivity, vaso-vagal

Conditions in category 1A		
10		Endocrine and Metabolic
10 1		Diseases of the Thyroid and Parathyroid
10 1 1		Hypothyroidism
10 2		Diabetes Mellitus
10 2 1		Type 2 diabetes mellitus
10 2 2		Hypoglycaemia
10 3		Lipid Disorders
10 3 1		Hypercholesterolaemia
10 6		Electrolyte and Acid-Base Disorders
10 6 1		Hypo/Hyponatraemia
10 6 2		Hypo/Hyperkalaemia
10 6 3		Hypo/Hypercalcaemia
10 6 4		Volume depletion
11		Renal and Genito-Urinary
11 1		Benign Conditions of the GU Tract
11 1 1		Benign prostatic hyperplasia
11 3		GU Infectious/Inflammatory Conditions
11 3 1		Cystitis
11 3 2		Balanitis
11 3 3		Prostatitis
11 3 4		Epididymitis
11 3 5		Orchitis
11 3 6		Urethritis
11 5		Other Renal/GU Problems
11 5 1		Haematuria
11 5 2		Ureteric trauma
11 5 3		Renal Injury
11 5 4		Acute and chronic urinary retention
12		Skin
12 1		Eczematous Eruptions
12 1 1		Atopic
12 1 2		Contact
12 1 3		Nappy
12 1 4		Peri-oral
12 1 5		Seborrhoeic
12 1 6		Nummular
12 1 7		Venous stasis
12 2		Papulosquamous Diseases
12 2 1		Tinea versicolor
12 2 2		Tinea corporis/pedis
12 2 3		Drug eruptions
12 2 4		Pityriasis rosea
12 2 5		Psoriasis

Conditions in category 1A			
12			Skin (continued)
12	3		Acneiform Lesions
12	3	1	Acne vulgaris
12	3	2	Rosacea
12	3	3	Folliculitis
12	4		Hair and Nails
12	4	1	Androgenic alopecia
12	4	2	Onychomycosis
12	4	3	Paronychia
12	5		Viral Diseases
12	5	1	Exanthems
12	5	2	Herpes simplex
12	5	3	Molluscum contagiosum
12	5	4	Verrucae
12	5	5	Varicella-zoster virus infections
12	6		Bacterial Infections
12	6	1	Cellulitis/vasculitis
12	6	2	Impetigo
12	7		Insects/Parasites
12	7	1	Lice
12	7	2	Scabies
12	8		Bites
12	8	1	Insect
12	8	2	Animal
12	8	3	Human
12	9		Skin Trauma
12	9	1	Simple and complex laceration
12	9	2	Burns
12	9	3	Needlestick injuries
12	12		Other Dermatological Conditions
12	12	1	Urticaria
12	12	2	Vitiligo
12	12	3	Hydradenitis suppurativa
12	12	4	Melasma
12	12	5	Lipomas/epithelial inclusion cysts
12	12	6	Decubitus ulcers/leg ulcers
13			Haematological
13	1		Anaemias
13	1	1	Vitamin B12 deficiency
13	1	2	Folate deficiency
13	1	3	Iron deficiency
13	2		Coagulation Disorders
13	2	1	Nutritional anaemias

Conditions in category 1A		
14		Sexual Health
14 1		Contraception
14 1 1		Contraceptive advice
14 1 2		Treatment
14 3		Sexual Dysfunction
14 3 1		Male sexual dysfunction
14 4		Safe Sex Advice
15		Infections
15 1		Fungal Disease
15 1 1		Candidiasis
15 2		Bacterial/Mycobacterial Disease
15 2 1		Salmonellosis
15 2 2		Shigellosis
15 3		Parasitic Disease
15 3 1		Threadworms
15 3 2		Hookworms
15 4		Viral Disease
15 4 1		Epstein-Barr virus infections
15 4 2		Herpes simplex
15 4 3		Influenza
15 4 4		Mumps
15 4 5		Roseola
15 4 6		Rubella
15 4 7		Measles
15 4 8		Varicella-zoster virus infections
15 4 9		Erythema infectiosum

Conditions in category 1B

The Physician Assistant is able to identify the following conditions as possible diagnoses, may not have the knowledge or resources to confirm the diagnosis or to manage the condition safely, but can take measures to avoid immediate deterioration and refer appropriately.

1		Mental Health
1	1	Mood Disorders
1	1	3
		Bipolar
1	2	Anxiety Disorders
1	2	1
		Generalized anxiety disorder
1	2	2
		Phobias
1	2	3
		Panic disorder
1	2	4
		Posttraumatic stress disorder
1	3	Eating Disorders
1	3	2
		Anorexia nervosa
1	3	3
		Bulimia nervosa
1	4	Substance Use Disorders
1	4	3
		Drug abuse/dependence
1	5	Other Behaviour/Emotional Disorders
1	5	3
		Child/elder abuse
1	5	4
		Domestic violence
1	5	5
		Deliberate self-harm
1	5	6
		Attention-deficit Disorder
1	6	Psychoses
1	6	1
		Schizophrenia
1	7	Personality Disorders
1	7	1
		Antisocial
1	7	2
		Obsessive-compulsive
1	7	3
		Paranoid
2		Cardiovascular
2	1	Hypertension
2	1	4
		Secondary
2	1	5
		Malignant/accelerated
2	2	Conduction Disorders
2	2	1
		Bundle branch block
2	2	2
		Premature beats
2	2	3
		Atrial fibrillation/flutter
2	2	4
		Atrioventricular block
2	2	5
		Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia
2	2	6
		Ventricular tachycardia
2	2	7
		Ventricular fibrillation/flutter
2	3	Hypotension
2	3	3
		Cardiogenic shock
2	4	Vascular Diseases
2	4	1
		Chronic/acute arterial occlusion
2	4	2
		Peripheral vascular disease
2	4	3
		Varicose veins
2	4	4
		Acute rheumatic fever
2	4	5
		Venous thrombosis
2	4	6
		Aortic aneurysm/dissection
2	4	7
		Arterial embolism/thrombosis

Conditions in category 1B		
2		Cardiovascular (continued)
2 5		Cardiac Failure
2 5 1		Ischaemic
2 5 2		Valvular
2 5 3		Hypertensive
2 6		Ischaemic Heart Disease
2 6 1		Acute myocardial infarction
2 6 2		Angina pectoris: <i>Unstable</i>
2 6 3		Angina pectoris: <i>Prinzmetal's/variant</i>
2 9		Valvular Disease
2 9 1		Aortic stenosis/regurgitation
2 9 2		Mitral stenosis/regurgitation
2 9 3		Tricuspid stenosis/insufficiency
2 9 4		Pulmonary stenosis/insufficiency
2 10		Other Cardiovascular Problems
2 10 1		Acute and subacute bacterial endocarditis
2 10 2		Acute pericarditis
2 10 3		Cardiac tamponade
2 10 4		Pericardial effusion
3		Respiratory
3 1		Infectious Respiratory Disorders
3 1 7		Acute bronchiolitis
3 1 8		Acute epiglottitis
3 1 9		Pertussis
3 1 10		Empyema
3 2		Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
3 2 5		Sleep apnoea
3 4		Pulmonary Circulation
3 4 1		Pulmonary embolism
3 4 2		Cor pulmonale
3 5		Pleural Diseases
3 5 1		Pleural effusion
3 5 2		Pneumothorax: <i>Primary</i>
3 5 3		Pneumothorax: <i>Traumatic</i>
3 5 4		Pneumothorax: <i>Tension</i>
3 5 5		Pleurisy
3 6		Neoplastic Pulmonary Disease
3 6 1		Bronchogenic carcinoma
3 6 2		Metastatic tumours
4		Gastro-Intestinal
4 1		Oesophagus
4 1 2		Mallory-Weiss tear
4 1 3		Neoplasms
4 1 4		Strictures
4 1 5		Varices
4 2		Stomach
4 2 4		Gastric Neoplasms

Conditions in category 1B			
4			Gastro-Intestinal (continued)
4	3		Small Intestine/Colon
4	3	4	Diverticular disease
4	3	5	Appendicitis
4	3	6	Intussusception
4	3	7	Ischaemic bowel disease
4	3	8	Obstruction
4	3	9	Toxic megacolon
4	4		Rectum
4	4	2	Anal fissure
4	4	3	Anorectal abscess/fistula
4	4	4	Pilonidal disease
4	4	5	Polyyps
4	4	6	Rectal neoplasms
4	5		Gallbladder
4	5	1	Chronic cholecystitis
4	5	2	Cholelithiasis
4	5	3	Acute cholecystitis
4	6		Liver
4	6	1	Acute/chronic hepatitis
4	6	2	Cirrhosis
4	7		Pancreas
4	7	1	Acute pancreatitis
4	8		Hernia
4	8	1	Hiatus
4	8	2	Incisional
4	8	3	Inguinal
4	8	4	Umbilical
4	8	5	Ventral
4	9		Other Gastro-Intestinal Conditions
4	9	4	Peritonitis
4	9	5	Gastro-intestinal perforation
4	9	6	Gastro-intestinal haemorrhage
5			Musculoskeletal
5	1		Disorders of the Shoulder
5	1	2	Fractures/dislocations
5	1	3	Adhesive capsulitis
5	2		Disorders of the Forearm/Wrist/Hand
5	2	3	Fractures/dislocations: <i>Colles'</i>
5	2	4	Fractures/dislocations: <i>Humeral</i>
5	2	5	Fractures/dislocations: <i>Pulled elbow</i>
5	2	6	Fractures/dislocations: <i>Scaphoid</i>
5	2	7	Tenosynovitis: <i>Carpal tunnel syndrome</i>
5	2	8	Tenosynovitis: <i>de Quervain's tenosynovitis</i>
5	2	9	Tenosynovitis: <i>Elbow tendonitis</i>
5	3		Disorders of Back/Spine
5	3	4	Kyphosis/scoliosis
5	3	5	Herniated disk pulposis
5	3	6	Back/neck fractures

Conditions in category 1B		
5		Musculoskeletal (continued)
5 4		Disorders of the Hip
5 4 1		Fractures/dislocations
5 4 2		Slipped upper femoral epiphysis
5 5		Disorders of the Knee
5 5 3		Bursitis
5 5 4		Fractures/dislocations
5 5 5		Meniscal injuries
5 5 6		Chondromalacia
5 6		Disorders of the Ankle/Foot
5 6 2		Fractures/dislocations
5 8		Musculoskeletal Infectious Diseases
5 8 1		Septic arthritis
5 8 2		Acute osteomyelitis
5 8 3		Chronic osteomyelitis
5 10		Other Musculoskeletal Problems
5 10 3		Metabolic bone disease
5 10 4		Paget's disease
5 10 5		Renal bone disease
5 10 6		Vascular-sickle cell
6		Eye
6 1		Eye disorders
6 1 10		Strabismus
6 1 11		Cataract
6 1 12		Congenital cataract
6 1 13		Macular degeneration
6 1 14		Ectropion
6 1 15		Entropion
6 1 16		Glaucoma
6 1 17		Diabetic retinopathy
6 1 18		Hypertensive retinopathy
6 1 19		Retinal detachment
6 1 20		Retinal vascular occlusion
6 1 21		Retinoblastoma
6 1 22		Raised intracranial pressure (signs of)
6 1 23		Optic neuritis
6 1 24		Optic atrophy
6 1 25		Blow-out fracture
6 1 26		Thyroid eye disease
6 1 27		Horner's
6 1 28		Third nerve palsy
6 1 29		Holme-Adie
7		Ear, Nose and Throat
7 1		Ear Disorders
7 1 7		Mastoiditis
7 1 8		Menière's disease
7 1 9		Barotrauma
7 1 10		Hearing impairment
7 1 11		Tympanic membrane perforation

Conditions in category 1B		
7		Ear, Nose and Throat (continued)
7 3		Mouth/Throat Disorders
7 3 8		Quinsy
7 3 9		Epiglottitis
7 3 10		Oral leukoplakia
7 3 11		Sialadenitis
7 3 12		Peritonsillar abscess
7 3 13		Dental abscess
8		Female Reproductive
8 1		Uterus
8 1 2		Endometritis
8 1 3		Prolapse
8 2		Cervix
8 2 2		Dysplasia
8 2 3		Cysts
8 3		Vagina/Vulva
8 3 2		Neoplasm
8 3 3		Cystocele
8 3 4		Rectocele
8 3 5		Bartholin's cyst
8 4		Breast
8 4 1		Abscess
8 4 2		Fibroadenoma
8 4 3		Fibrocystic disease
8 4 4		Mastitis
8 4 5		Breast cancer
8 5		Menstrual Disorders
8 5 3		Amenorrhoea
8 5 4		Polycystic ovarian syndrome
8 6		Uncomplicated Pregnancy
8 6 1		Normal labour/delivery
8 6 2		Emergency childbirth
8 7		Complicated Pregnancy
8 7 1		Pregnancy-induced hypertension
8 7 2		Ectopic pregnancy
8 7 3		Gestational diabetes
8 7 4		Abortion
8 7 5		Abruptio placenta
8 7 6		Placenta previa
8 7 7		Postpartum haemorrhage
8 7 8		Premature rupture of membranes
8 7 9		Rh incompatibility
8 7 10		Multiple gestation
8 7 11		Dystocia

Conditions in category 1B		
9		Neurological
9 1		Diseases of Peripheral Nerves
9 1 2		Diabetic peripheral neuropathy
9 2		Movement Disorders
9 2 2		Parkinson's disease
9 4		Seizure Disorders
9 4 1		Status epilepticus
9 4 2		Primary general
9 5		Dementias
9 5 1		Alzheimer's disease
9 6		Vascular Diseases
9 6 1		Stroke
9 6 2		Transient ischaemic attack
9 6 3		Raised intracranial pressure
9 6 4		Temporal arteritis
9 7		Infectious/Inflammatory Disorders
9 7 1		Encephalitis
9 7 2		Meningitis
9 7 3		HIV
9 7 4		Tuberculosis
9 7 5		Syphilis
9 8		Other Neurological Conditions
9 8 6		Spinal cord lesions
9 8 7		Subarachnoid haemorrhage
9 8 8		Multiple sclerosis
9 8 9		Venous sinus thrombosis
9 8 10		Cavernous sinus thrombosis
9 8 11		Neoplasm – primary and secondary
9 8 12		Encephalopathy – acute and chronic
9 8 13		Peripheral nerve lesions – wrist or foot drop
9 8 14		Nerve entrapment: e.g. carpal tunnel
10		Endocrine and Metabolic
10 1		Diseases of the Thyroid and Parathyroid
10 1 2		Hyperthyroidism: <i>Graves' disease</i>
10 1 3		Hyperthyroidism: <i>Hashimoto's thyroiditis</i>
10 1 4		Hyperthyroidism: <i>Thyroid storm</i>
10 1 5		Thyroiditis
10 1 6		Hyperparathyroidism
10 1 7		Hypoparathyroidism
10 1 8		Thyroid neoplastic disease
10 2		Diabetes Mellitus
10 2 3		Type 1 diabetes mellitus
10 4		Diseases of the Adrenal Glands
10 4 1		Corticoadrenal insufficiency
10 6		Electrolyte and Acid-Base Disorders
10 6 5		Hypomagnesaemia
10 6 6		Metabolic alkalosis/acidosis
10 6 7		Respiratory alkalosis/acidosis
10 6 8		Volume excess

Conditions in category 1B		
10		Endocrine and Metabolic (continued)
10 7		Other Metabolic and Endocrine
10 7 1		Gynaecomastia
10 7 2		Galactorrhoea
10 7 3		Lactose intolerance
11		Renal and Genito-Urinary
11 2		Renal Diseases
11 2 1		Acute/chronic renal failure
11 2 2		Glomerulonephritis
11 2 3		Nephrotic syndrome
11 3		GU Infectious/Inflammatory Conditions
11 3 7		Pyelonephritis
11 4		Renal/GU Neoplastic Diseases
11 4 1		Bladder carcinoma
11 4 2		Prostate carcinoma
11 4 3		Renal cell carcinoma
11 4 4		Testicular carcinoma
11 4 5		Wilms tumour
11 5		Other GU Tract Problems
11 5 5		Incontinence
11 5 6		Cryptorchidism
11 5 7		Hydrocoele/varicocele
11 5 8		Nephro/uroolithiasis
11 5 9		Paraphimosis/phimosis
11 5 10		Testicular torsion
12		Skin
12 1		Eczematous Eruptions
12 1 8		Actinic keratosis
12 2		Papulosquamous Diseases
12 2 6		Dermatophyte infections
12 2 7		Lichen planus
12 5		Viral Diseases
12 5 6		Condyloma acuminatum
12 6		Bacterial Infections
12 6 3		Erysipelas
12 10		Desquamation
12 10 1		Stevens-Johnson syndrome
12 10 2		Erythema multiforme
12 10 3		Toxic epidermal necrolysis
12 11		Dermal Neoplasia
12 11 1		Basal cell carcinoma
12 11 2		Melanoma
12 11 3		Squamous cell carcinoma
12 12		Other Dermatological Conditions
12 12 7		Acanthosis nigricans
12 12 8		Bullous conditions

Conditions in category 1B		
13		Haematological
13 1		Anaemias
13 1 4		Aplastic anaemia
13 1 5		Sickle cell anaemia
13 2		Coagulation Disorders
13 2 2		Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura
13 2 3		Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura
13 2 4		Von Willebrand's disease
13 2 5		Factor VIII disorders
13 2 6		Factor IX disorders
13 2 7		Factor XI disorders
13 2 8		Thrombocytopenia
13 2 9		Thalassaemia
13 3		Haematological Malignancies
13 3 1		Acute/chronic lymphocytic leukaemia
13 3 2		Acute/chronic myelogenous leukaemia
13 3 3		Lymphoma
13 3 4		Multiple myeloma
13 3 5		Polycythaemia
13 3 6		Leucopaenia
14		Sexual Health
14 2		Infertility
14 2 1		Infertility advice
14 3		Sexual Dysfunction
14 3 2		Female sexual dysfunction
14 5		Sexual Assault
14 6		Bacterial Disease
14 6 1		Chlamydia
14 6 2		Gonococcal infections
14 7		Spirochetal Disease
14 7 1		Syphilis
14 8 0		Viral Disease
14 8 1		Human papillomavirus infections
14 8 2		HIV infection
15		Infections
15 1		Fungal Disease
15 1 2		Cryptococcosis
15 1 3		Histoplasmosis
15 1 4		Pneumocystis
15 3		Parasitic Disease
15 3 3		Amoebiasis
15 3 4		Malaria

Conditions in category 2A

Once the following conditions have been diagnosed, either by their supervising doctor or a clinical specialist, the Physician Assistant is able to manage the condition without routine referral.

Conditions in category 2A		
1		Mental Health
1 1		Mood Disorders
1 1 4		Dysthymic disorder
2		Cardiovascular
2 4		Vascular Diseases
2 4 8		Giant cell arteritis
2 6		Ischaemic Heart Disease
2 6 4		Angina pectoris: <i>Stable</i>
5		Musculoskeletal
5 1		Disorders of the Shoulder
5 1 4		Rotator cuff disorders
5 1 5		Subluxation
5 7		Rheumatological Conditions
5 7 4		Pseudogout
5 7 5		Rheumatoid arthritis
5 10		Other Musculoskeletal Conditions
5 10 5		Vitamin D deficiency
9		Neurological
9 4		Seizure Disorders
9 4 3		Partial or partial complex seizures
9 7		Infectious/Inflammatory Disorders
9 7 6		Lyme
10		Endocrine and Metabolic
10 3		Lipid Disorders
10 3 2		Hypertriglyceridaemia
10 4		Diseases of the Adrenal Glands
10 4 2		Cushing's syndrome

Conditions in category 2B

The Physician Assistant is able to undertake the day-to-day management of the patient with one of the following conditions once the diagnosis and strategic management decisions have been made by another.

Conditions in category 2B		
1		Mental Health
1 6		Psychoses
1 6 2		Delusional disorder
1 6 3		Schizoaffective disorder
1 7		Personality Disorders
1 7 4		Avoidant
1 7 5		Borderline
1 7 6		Histrionic
1 7 7		Narcissistic
1 7 8		Schizoid
1 7 9		Schizotypal
1 8		Other Mental Health Disorders
1 8 1		Autistic disorder
1 8 2		Somatoform disorders
2		Cardiovascular
2 7		Cardiomyopathy
2 7 1		Dilated
2 7 2		Hypertrophic
2 7 3		Restrictive
2 8		Congenital Heart Disease
2 8 1		Atrial septal defect
2 8 2		Ventricular septal defect
2 8 3		Coarctation of aorta
2 8 4		Patent ductus arteriosus
2 8 5		Tetralogy of Fallot
2 9		Valvular Disease
2 9 5		Mitral valve prolapse
3		Respiratory
3 1		Infectious Respiratory Disorders
3 1 11		Fungal pneumonias
3 1 12		HIV-related pneumonias
3 1 13		Tuberculosis
3 2		Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
3 2 6		Bronchiectasis
3 2 7		Cystic fibrosis
3 3		Restrictive Pulmonary Disease
3 3 1		Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis
3 3 2		Pneumoconiosis
3 3 3		Sarcoidosis
3 4		Pulmonary Circulation
3 4 3		Pulmonary hypertension
3 6		Neoplastic Pulmonary Disease
3 6 3		Carcinoid tumours
3 6 4		Pulmonary nodules

Conditions in category 2B		
3		Gastro-Intestinal
3 8		Other Respiratory Conditions
3 8 1		Acute and chronic ventilatory failure
3 8 2		Vasculitis
4		Gastro-Intestinal
4 1		Oesophagus
4 1 6		Motor disorders
4 2		Stomach
4 2 6		Pyloric stenosis
4 3		Small Intestine/Colon
4 3 10		Inflammatory bowel disease
4 6		Liver
4 6 3		Hepatic neoplasms
4 7		Pancreas
4 7 2		Chronic pancreatitis
4 7 3		Pancreatic neoplasms
4 9		Other GI Disorders
4 9 7		Intra-abdominal abscess
5		Musculoskeletal
5 2		Disorders of the Forearm/Wrist/Hand
5 2 10		Fractures/dislocations: <i>Boxer's</i>
5 3		Disorders of Back/Spine
5 3 7		Spinal stenosis
5 3 8		Cauda equina
5 3 9		Ankylosing spondylitis
5 7		Rheumatological Conditions
5 7 6		Reiter's syndrome
5 7 7		Polyarteritis nodosa
5 7 8		Polymyositis
5 7 9		Scleroderma
5 7 10		Sjögren's syndrome
5 7 11		Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
5 7 12		Systemic lupus erythematosus
5 9		Musculoskeletal Neoplastic Disease
5 9 1		Bone cysts/tumours
5 9 2		Osteosarcoma
6		Eye
6 1		Eye Disorders
6 1 30		Hyphaema
6 1 31		Neuromuscular – myasthenia gravis: LEMS
6 1 32		Myopathic
6 1 33		Cranial nerve (III, IV, VI)
7		Ear, Nose and Throat
7 4		ENT Neoplasm
7 4 1		Acoustic neuromas
7 4 2		Nasopharyngeal and oral cancers

Conditions in category 2B		
8		Female Reproductive
8 1		Uterus
8 1 4		Endometriosis/adenomyosis
8 1 5		Leiomyoma
8 1 6		Endometrial cancer
8 2		Cervix
8 2 4		Incompetent
8 2 5		Carcinoma cervix
8 7		Complicated Pregnancy
8 7 12		Foetal distress
8 7 13		Gestational trophoblastic disease
8 7 14		Molar pregnancy
8 9		Toxic Shock Syndrome
8 10		Ovarian Neoplasms
9		Neurological
9 1		Diseases of Peripheral Nerves
9 1 3		Guillain-Barre syndrome (acute IDP)
9 1 4		Chronic IDP
9 2		Movement Disorders
9 2 3		Huntington's disease
9 2 4		Parkinson's plus
9 2 5		Young onset movement disorders
9 6		Vascular Diseases
9 6 5		Vasculitis
9 7		Infectious/Inflammatory Disorders
9 7 7		Prion disease
9 7 8		Whipple's
9 7 9		Tropical disease
9 8		Other Neurological Conditions
9 8 15		Myasthenia gravis
9 8 16		Cerebral palsy
9 8 17		Sarcoid
10		Endocrine and Metabolic
10 5		Diseases of the Pituitary Gland
10 5 1		Acromegaly
10 5 2		Diabetes insipidus
10 7		Other Metabolic and Endocrine
10 7 4		Phaeochromocytoma
11		Renal and Genito-Urinary
11 2		Renal Diseases
11 2 4		Polycystic kidney disease
11 2 5		Vasculitis
12		Skin
12 12		Other Dermatological Conditions
12 12 9		Dyshidrosis
12 12 10		Lichen simplex chronicus

Conditions in category 2B		
13		Haematological
13 1		Anaemias
13 1 6		G6PD deficiency
13 1 7		Haemolytic anaemia
15		Infections
15 2		Bacterial/Mycobacterial Disease
15 2 5		Tetanus
15 2 6		Cholera
15 2 7		Diphtheria
15 2 8		Botulism
15 2 9		Atypical mycobacterial disease
15 3		Parasitic Disease
15 3 5		Toxoplasmosis
15 4		Viral Disease
15 4 10		Rabies
15 4 11		Cytomegalovirus infections

This *Matrix specification of Core Clinical Conditions for the Physician Assistant by category of level of competence* (working document to be read in conjunction with the *Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant*, Department of Health 2006) was developed by a working party with representatives from the following organisations:



National Practitioner Programme



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