Victoria Hale

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

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Summary

Cardiothoracic surgery physician assistant with 8 years in heart surgery programs, the current one performing about 900 open-heart cases a year. Performs endoscopic vein harvesting, acts as first assist on CABG and valve surgery, and manages patients through the cardiothoracic ICU. Holds the NCCPA Certificate of Added Qualifications in Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery.

Skills

- Endoscopic Vein Harvesting
- First Assist
- CABG
- Valve Surgery
- Hemodynamic Monitoring
- Chest Tubes
- Pacing Wires
- Sternal Closure
- Critical Care
- Teamwork

Experience

Cardiothoracic Surgery Physician Assistant 06/2021 - Present

Three Rivers Heart Institute Pittsburgh, PA

Cardiac surgery program of 7 surgeons with a 16-bed cardiothoracic ICU.

- Perform endoscopic vein harvesting on **250+** CABG cases a year, with leg wound infections under 1%.
- Assist as first assist on CABG, mitral and aortic valve surgery and aortic root cases, about 18 a month.
- Manage 6-8 fresh post-op patients a shift in the ICU, adjusting drips through hemodynamic monitoring.
- Handle removal of chest tubes and pacing wires, and lead early mobility plans that cut ICU stays by 0.6 days.
- Train 4 new PAs a year in vein harvest and sternal closure through a 3-month orientation.

Physician Assistant, Cardiothoracic Surgery 07/2018 - 05/2021

Monongahela General Hospital Pittsburgh, PA

Community heart surgery program with 4 surgeons and about 400 cases a year.

- Harvested saphenous veins and radial arteries for **150** cases a year.
- Completed sternal closure and placed chest tubes on about 20 cases a month.
- Managed step-down patients after heart surgery, sending 60% home by post-op day 5.
- Answered night calls for the cardiac surgery service, triaging 6-8 floor and ICU issues per call shift.

Education

Master of Physician Assistant Studies 05/2018

Chatham University Pittsburgh, PA

Physician Assistant Studies

Certificates

Physician Assistant-Certified (PA-C)

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

06/2018

Physician Assistant License

Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine

06/2018

Certificate of Added Qualifications in Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

04/2022