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Orthopaedic Advanced Practice Providers

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Penn Medicine Advanced Practice Providers (APP) have been an integral member of the healthcare team since the 1970's. They have supported the health system's ability to increase access to quality healthcare for the communities we serve.

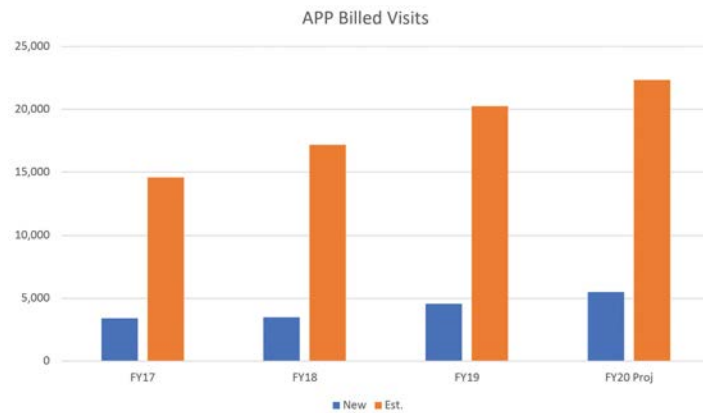
Within the department of Orthopaedic Surgery our APP group continues to grow. We currently have 37 APPs within our department. In the past year we have added two new positions: a float PA and an additional PA to the foot and ankle team. In addition, we have also hired Brian Fletcher who is our independent joints APP. Brian has 9 independent clinic sessions per week supporting the joints division. He is seeing new, return and post-operative patients. Brian has been a wonderful addition to the team and has tremendously helped with access to care.

Our float physician assistant is Kerry Howey. Given the growth of the APPs, as well as the integral role they play in clinical operations, the float PA provides an additional layer of support for the team. The role of the float PA is to run independent sessions, focused in general Orthopaedics and be made available for coverage of other advanced practice providers when needed. Kerry has clinic schedules at PMUC, PAH and Cherry Hill while also covering extended hours clinic in Cherry Hill predominantly on Wednesdays.

The Orthopaedic Extended Hours of Cherry Hill has been open for a little over one year now. The clinics are APP run and supported by Dr. Samir Mehta as attending physician. Hours of operation are now Wednesday 4-8pm and Saturday 8-12pm. Appointments can be made ahead of time or walks ins are available. This has provided options for patients after business hours, has opened access to care, and has captured a patient population for the department that would otherwise prove difficult to attain. It allows us to streamline care to ensure that patients are getting treated in a timely manner and getting directed to the correct surgeon or practitioner.

The Orthopaedic APP's have had a remarkable impact on patient care here at Penn Medicine. They are on the front lines making significant strides to improve clinical care. They continue to increase access to care while supporting a heavy clinical demand, and manage continuity and continuum of care. They drive safety, quality, cost and satisfaction to our patients. The vast majority of our APPs all run independent sessions which range from post-operative patients, return and

new patients, as well as minor procedures. They also do the majority of the history and physicals and prepare the patients for surgery. They are also seeing many of the post-operative patients to free up the physician's schedules for new patients. Each year we continue to see an increase in total visits by our APPs. In FY19 they saw a total of 4,554 new patients and 20,253 established patients.



The APPs continue to support department initiatives, including most recently telehealth. The APPs are in the midst of preparing to help with our telehealth initiative by choosing appropriate post-operative patients and offering them a telehealth visit with them. While telehealth will not benefit most, we are excited about the opportunity for those who will benefit from this type of visit.

This past fall Marcus Nartey was nominated for the Advanced Practice Provider Clinical Excellence Award. Marcus was honored at the APP Awards Ceremony which was held during Advanced Practice Provider week. We congratulate Marcus on this very special nomination and thank him for his continued dedication to our practice and patients. He has been an integral part of the growth in the spine division.

In conclusion, the advanced practice providers are major contributors to the success of the department. With a strong focus on superior patient outcomes, they serve as highly valued members of the clinical care team. I am beyond grateful to work with such an amazing group of advanced practice providers.