

# HOW MANITOBA PHYSICIANS SEE THE VALUE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

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In May 2019, the 20 physicians (27.7% response rate) from the 72 MD supervisors of Manitoba's 116 PAs answered a 20-question electronic survey asking their perspectives of P.A.'s Value, contributions to patient care and the health system, and the P.A.'s influence on physician's wellness. Three of the physician respondents have employed a P.A. for less than a year, 85% for more than two years with 36.84% of those for longer than five years. One specialist surgeon did not find value in the new-graduate P.A. hired. On review, expectations were unrealistic for the duties assigned supporting the need for PA-graduates to ask questions related to duties and expectations before accepting positions.



*“Having a P.A. work with me is akin to finding that perfect Ballroom Dance partner, someone who gets it. That moment went everything comes together; when movement no longer requires talking, it just happens. Having a partner who knows what is needed and what comes next, that is the sense I get from working with my P.A.”*

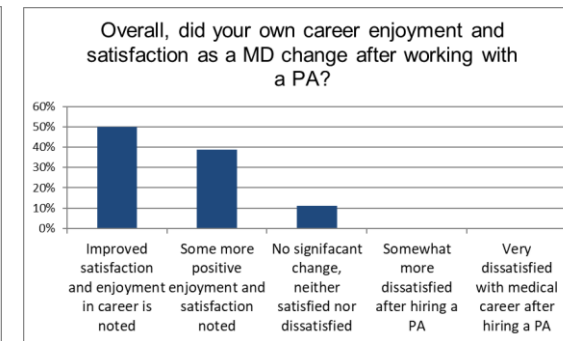
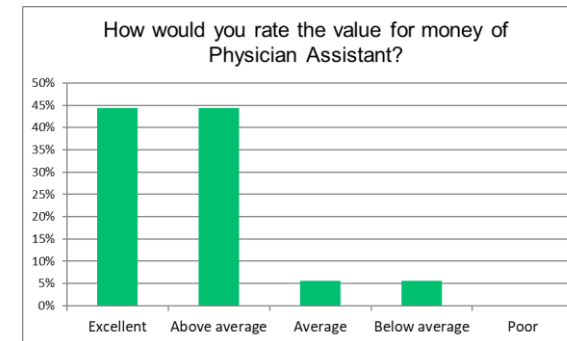
- Supervising Physicians Name withheld on request.

## MD's Personal Value and Satisfaction with PAs

Answer Choices	Responses
Less Stress	50%
Better	72%
More Relaxed at work	33%
Increased Productivity	83%
Good value for money	61%
Improved my career outlook	22%
Impractical but best option	0%
Ineffective	0%
Poor quality, adds to my worry	0%
More Stressed	0%
Never again	6%

## Values Brought to MB Healthcare

Answer Choices	Responses
Honesty and Respect,	76%
Improved Access	76%
Excellence in care	59%
Better workplace communication	82%
Better Patient Safety	71%
Better Teamwork	82%
Accountability	35%
Efficiency	76%
Decreased Stress	41%
Better Communication with Patients	59%



The determination of P.A.'s Value is through the lenses of those looking and asking what is needed. Ultimately, 95% of surveyed MDs are extremely likely to recommend hiring a P.A. to a friend or colleague. Manitoba physicians represented indicate extreme satisfaction with the quality and Value P.A.s contribute to their practice environment and personal lives.

Identified Study Limitations – study size, and the possible bias that only those who like PAs responded

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