

SPEAKER PROFILE

SCOTT HAGA, PA-C



Scott Haga, PA-C, is a certified physician assistant. He earned his bachelor's degree in social work from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, and his master's degree in physician assistant studies from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. He is a substance abuse specialist at the Spectrum Health Medical Group Center for Integrative Medicine (CIM).

CIM has a number of different teams, including an intake team, consisting of a physician, licensed master of social work (LMSW) and a medical assistant (MA); a pain and addiction team, staffed by a physicians' assistant (PA) and master of social work (MSW); and a complex medical team, also led by a PA and MSW. Upon enrolling in the program, the teams meet and evaluate patients, typically meeting with them four to five times over five weeks. Patients' biopsychosocial issues are identified, and care plans are created that include interventions such as mindfulness meditation to help manage chronic pain, addiction treatment, care for chronic or complex medical conditions, mental health services, and aggressive assistance with social services focused on helping patients find reliable housing. A 2011 trial analyzing 100 super-utilizer patients receiving CIM care found that the program reduced ED visits by 63 percent, a reduction maintained for more than a year. Health care costs for the group were reduced by \$2.7 million. The net effect compared to controls is still under investigation.