

C5  
American Medical Student Association  
House of Delegates 2022  
Resolution:

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**Subject:** Principles Regarding Work and the Work Environment

**Type:** Addition to Principles

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WHEREAS several healthcare professional organizations have recently jeopardized future patient safety through ambiguous provider labeling practices which compromise transparency, increase patient confusion, and downplay the role of physicians in the care of patients [1-3].

WHEREAS both the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and American Medical Association (AMA) among several other professional medical specialty associations support physician-led care in order to ensure that professionals with the highest level and most extensive degree of medical training are appropriately involved with clinical decision making and patient care [4-6].

WHEREAS with 7 years or more of postgraduate education and at least 10,000 hours of clinical experience through training, physicians are the leaders in the overall delivery of health care [6].

WHEREAS based on previous studies, higher malpractice claims have been found with Physician Assistant (PA) and Nurse Practitioners (NP), which compromise patient safety. During 2005 through 2014, there ranged from 11.2 to 19.0 malpractice payment reports per 1,000 physicians, 1.4 to 2.4 per 1,000 PAs, and 1.1 to 1.4 per 1,000 NPs [7].

WHEREAS efforts to advance the roles of physician assistants and nurse practitioners would lead to the judgment and comparison of their care with that of physicians who spend far more years in training and whose experience far exceeds that of other healthcare professionals.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Principles Regarding Work and the Work Environment (pg. 61-62) be **AMENDED BY ADDITION** to state:

The American Medical Student Association

1. **SUPPORTS** a collaborative model approach to patient care which recognizes physician expertise as integral to quality medical care within the United States.
2. **SUPPORTS** transparent provider labeling practices and recognition of distinction between physicians and non-physicians in the involvement of patient care.
3. **SUPPORTS** the maintained authority by physicians to provide patient care in any team care arrangement to assure patient safety and quality of care, since the ultimate responsibility for each individual patient's medical care rests with the physician.

Fiscal Note: None

Citations:

1. AMA pushes for physician-led care models. (2014, June 10). Healthcare Dive. <https://www.healthcaredive.com/news/ama-pushes-for-physician-led-care-models/272706/>
2. American Medical Association. (2021, July 27). Physician-led team-based care. <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/scope-practice/physician-led-team-based-care>
3. American Society of anesthesiologists Condemns the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists' Misleading Name Change. (2020). <https://www.asahq.org/about-asa/newsroom/news-releases/2021/08/asa-news-release-on-aanas-misleading-name-change>
4. Johnson, B. (2021, July 26). AOA statement on physician-led care, Physician Assistant title change and non-physician clinician use of the title 'Doctor.' American Osteopathic Association. <https://osteopathic.org/2021/05/28/aoa-statement-on-physician-led-care-physician-assistant-title-change-and-non-physician-clinician-use-of-the-title-doctor/>
5. Johnson, B. (2022, January 11). AOA statement on American Association of Nurse Anesthetists name change, title misappropriation and the importance of physician-led care. American Osteopathic Association. <https://osteopathic.org/2021/09/14/aoa-statement-on-american-association-of-nurse-anesthetists-name-change-title-misappropriation-and-the-importance-of-physician-led-care/>

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6. Brock DM, Nicholson JG, Hooker RS. Physician Assistant and Nurse Practitioner Malpractice Trends. *Med Care Res Rev.* 2017;74(5):613-624.  
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