

Protect access to physician-led care

Patients are concerned about the cost and quality of health care. While there is certainly room for improvement in the health care system, allowing non-physicians, including physician assistants, to diagnose and treat patients without any physician oversight is a step in the wrong direction. The best way to support high-quality care and lower costs is to keep physicians as the leader of the health care team.

PHYSICIANS ARE TRAINED TO LEAD

With the highest level of education and clinical training

Physicians

4 years



3–7 years



12,000–16,000 hours



Physician assistants

2–2 1/2 years

No residency

2,000 hours

SCOPE EXPANSION INCREASES COSTS

X-ray ordering increased
441% among
non-physicians



Non-physicians needed
2x the number of biopsies
to screen for skin cancer

Patients were **15%**
more likely to receive an antibiotic
from a non-physician



8.4% of physician assistants prescribed opioids
to over half of their patients compared to **1.3%** of physicians

According to a leading ACO, patients with non-physician primary care providers had **\$43** higher spending per member per month compared to those who had a physician, which could translate to **\$10.3M** more in annual spending.

PATIENTS PREFER PHYSICIAN-LED CARE

91%
say a physician's education and
training are vital for optimal care



3/4
would wait longer and pay more
to be treated by a physician

95%
say it's important for a physician to be
involved in their diagnosis and treatment



**Health care teams working together—with physicians in the lead—
is critical to having the best and safest outcomes for patients.**

MYTH

Allowing non-physicians to practice without physician involvement will increase access to care in rural and underserved areas.

FACT

States with laws allowing **nurse practitioners** to practice without physician supervision or collaboration has not guaranteed increased access in rural and underserved areas.

All patients, regardless of ZIP code, deserve care led by a physician.