AAPA Critical Projects & Initiatives
Removing Barriers to Move the Profession Forward

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1. Modernizing PA legislation
2. Advancing PA awareness and understanding
3. Empowering PAs with leadership opportunities
4. Investigating the physician assistant title and identifying potential alternatives
5. Improving the recertification process for PAs

Optimal Team Practice
About Optimal Team Practice

AAPA is seeking to change laws and regulations that:

1. Emphasize PAs' commitment to team practice
2. Authorize PAs to practice without an agreement with a specific physician—enabling practice-level decisions about collaboration
3. Create separate majority-PA boards to regulate PAs, or give authority to healing arts or medical boards that have PAs as members
4. Authorize PAs to be eligible for direct payment by all public and private payers

OTP is Not Independent Practice

OTP includes two important points that distinguish it from independent practice:

1. It reinforces PAs' commitment to team practice with physicians and the degree of collaboration between PAs and physicians to be comparable and credible.
2. It establishes criteria about the degree of collaboration between PAs and physicians, in accordance with the PA education and experience of the PA.

OTP is about TEAM practice not independent practice

Incentives for physicians to enter into supervisory agreements with PAs have diminished

- Physicians more likely to be employees rather than employers
- No personal financial advantage for physicians to have an agreement with a PA

Marketplace Realities Driving Need for Change
Why Physicians Should Support OTP

- Reduces administrative burdens and increases flexibility
- Eliminates the threat of disciplinary action for "paperwork infractions"
- Ensures accuracy of data related to the quality and value of care
- Eliminates physician liability for care provided by a PA
- Allows team practice and design to be determined at the practice level
- Eliminates the threat of disciplinary action for "paperwork infractions"
- Ensures accuracy of data related to the quality and value of care

Marketplace Realities Driving Need for Change

NPs don’t require an agreement with a specific physician

Number of States where NPs Have Full Practice Authority

- 4 states in 1990
- 8 states in 1998
- 16 states in 2012
- 19 states in 2014
- 22 states in 2017/2018

45% of PAs say they have personally experienced NPs being hired over PAs due to supervision requirements

AAPA FPAR Survey, 2017
Recognizing PA Quality & Value: the Latest Research

Case for Separate PA Boards

- PAs are most commonly regulated by state medical boards
- Physicians and nurses are assured their regulatory boards have current knowledge of their profession
  - PAs have no such assurance
- Medical boards are primarily comprised of physicians

Making PAs Eligible for Direct Payment

- Practices, hospitals and health systems are limited in how they employ and work with PAs due to outdated regulations
- Rural Health clinics (RHC) may not be paid for PA delivery of a variety of services the federal government requires them to provide
- RHCs have a disincentive to hire PAs; and PAs have a disincentive to own RHCs, which reduces patient access to care

"Removing unnecessary restrictions on PA practice, such as eliminating the requirement for PAs to have an agreement with a specific physician in order to practice, would help alleviate healthcare shortages and improve efficiency with no adverse effects on patient outcomes."

- Authors E. Kathleen Adams and Sara Markowitz
Nationwide Look at OTP Activity

Half of states are active on OTP. That includes:
- Formed task forces
- Surveyed members
- Reached out to stakeholders
- Educated members
- Published articles
- Some are actively planning legislation

Outreach Strategy: Stakeholders

Outreach Strategy: Process

- Conducting Research
- Using Personal Relationships
- Linking Organizations
- Engaging Medical Liasons
- Capitalizing on Opportunities
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Communication Tools for Constituent Organizations

www.aapa.org/what-is-a-pa/
Advancing PA Awareness and Understanding

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Leadership is in the PA DNA
Empower PAs with Leadership Opportunities

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Investigating the PA Title and Identifying Potential Alternatives

- Approved preliminary project plan
- Designated initial investment of up to $1 million
- Approved the establishment of an Advisory Council

Work is currently underway to identify the expert firms to deliver an extensively researched and unbiased report
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Improving the Recertification Process for PAs

[Logos and text related to improving the recertification process]