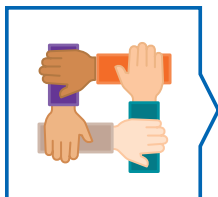


What Optimal Team Practice Means for Healthcare

Optimal Team Practice occurs when PAs, physicians, and other medical professionals work together to provide quality care without burdensome administrative constraints. To support Optimal Team Practice, states should eliminate the requirement that each PA have an agreement with a specific physician, and end the disparities between PAs and other medical providers in professional regulation and payment arrangements.

Here is how Optimal Team Practice will improve healthcare:

1. Optimal Team Practice will strengthen healthcare teams.



Optimal Team Practice will make healthcare teams stronger by reducing administrative burdens and enabling practice-level decision making. State laws should not require PAs to have an agreement with a specific physician in order to practice. Instead, decisions about the composition of healthcare teams should be made at the practice level, where the care is being provided.

2. Optimal Team Practice will expand access to care.



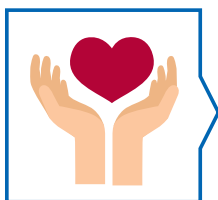
Eliminating the requirement for an agreement with a specific physician will make it easier for PAs to practice in rural and medically underserved communities. It will also allow PAs to more easily provide volunteer medical services and respond to disasters and emergencies.

3. Optimal Team Practice will reduce healthcare spending.



Increasing practice flexibility will help ensure that patients are seen in the right setting, by the right provider, at the right time—which can reduce the overall cost of healthcare.

4. Optimal Team Practice will help employers meet patient needs.



When a PA is not tethered to a specific physician, health systems and hospitals can be more flexible in creating healthcare teams. This will allow them to more effectively meet patient needs and reduce provider burnout. Also, allowing PAs to receive payments directly will expand the number of available providers through the use of healthcare staffing companies and other business arrangements that require PAs to reassign insurance payments.