

# 6 Things to Know About the CARES Act

The Wisconsin Academy of PAs is working with stakeholders to build support for modernizing Wisconsin's PA laws. Here's what you should know about the Collaboration And Rural Expansion of Services (CARES) Act.



## 1. It enhances physician-PA team practice.

PAs value a sustained partnership with physicians, have great respect for the depth of physician training, and rely on the PA-physician team in clinical practice. In response to the fact that physicians and PAs are increasingly practicing in groups, and groups are getting larger the CARES Act removes the requirement for a PA to have an agreement with a specific physician—allowing teams more flexibility.



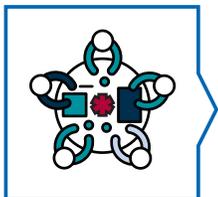
## 2. It preserves the PA role.

The PA role is well established. Under the CARES Act, PAs will continue to be legally and ethically obligated to collaborate, consult with and refer patients to physicians based on the patient's condition, the standard of care, and the PA's education and experience.



## 3. It is good for physicians and employers.

When a PA isn't tethered to a specific physician by a rigid agreement, health systems and hospitals can be more flexible in creating healthcare teams, which allows them to more effectively meet patient needs and reduce provider burnout. It also removes physician liability for the care that PAs provide when the physician is not involved, and reduces physician and employer risk of disciplinary action for administrative reasons.



## 4. It expands access for patients.

Decreasing administrative burdens for physicians, PAs and employers allows providers to be more available for patient care. PAs will be less restricted in providing care in rural areas and for underserved populations, and will be better able to volunteer without burdening a physician or employer with responsibility and liability.



## 5. It ensures PAs have meaningful input into the regulation of their profession.

PAs want what physicians, nurses, pharmacists and dentists already enjoy: regulatory boards that have current knowledge of their profession. PAs in Wisconsin are now regulated by the medical board, which has no PA members. No other profession experiences this inability for input.



## 6. It aligns with nationwide concepts and improvements.

As states seek to improve efficiency and decrease unnecessary healthcare spending, modernizing PA laws makes clear sense. Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana have recently enacted modernized PA laws and over a dozen states will consider bills in 2019. The federal government agrees. A recently released federal report calls for states to eliminate requirements for rigid collaborative practice and supervision agreements between physicians and PAs.