

# Optimal Team Practice

Optimal Team Practice occurs when PAs, physicians, and other healthcare professionals work together to provide quality care without burdensome administrative constraints.

## CHANGES PAs ARE SEEKING

To support **Optimal Team Practice**, states should:



Eliminate the legal requirement for a specific relationship between a PA, physician, or any other healthcare provider in order for a PA to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and experience.



Create a separate majority-PA board to regulate PAs or add PAs and physicians who work with PAs to medical or healing arts boards.



Authorize PAs to be eligible for direct payment by all public and private insurers.

## WHY OPTIMAL TEAM PRACTICE MATTERS



### PATIENTS

will have **greater access** to **high-quality healthcare**.



### EMPLOYERS

will have **more flexibility** in determining **healthcare teams**.



### LEGISLATORS

will see increased access and **lower Medicaid costs** in their states.



### PHYSICIANS

will be **relieved of unnecessary** administrative and legal **burdens**.

PAs will be fully responsible for the care they provide.

## SUPPORT FOR OPTIMAL TEAM PRACTICE

“The changes PAs are seeking represent a natural evolution of the PA profession. Patients, especially in rural and underserved areas, will benefit from greater access to the high-quality care that PAs provide.”

Bill Finerfrock, Executive Director  
National Association of Rural Health Clinics

“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.”

E. Kathleen Adams, Ph.D. and Sara Markowitz, Ph.D.  
The Brookings Institution's Hamilton Project

“States should consider eliminating requirements for rigid collaborative practice and supervision agreements between physicians [...] and their care extenders (e.g., physician assistants [...]).”

Reforming America's Healthcare System Through Choice and Competition  
The U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, and Labor