



*Accreditation Review Commission on Education  
for the Physician Assistant, Inc.*

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The ARC-PA appreciates the opportunity to provide a brief summary of our position on the Title Change Investigation (TCI). As one of the four organizations of the PA profession, each of us offer a unique perspective on this critical issue although we acknowledge that the decision to pursue a new title for the profession is within the purview of the AAPA. The ARC-PA recognizes that this is a complex issue compounded by a number of other factors which our profession is addressing such as Optimal Team Practice (OTP). We look forward to providing comment and testimony in this year's HOD.

### **Official position**

The ARC-PA does not have an official position on the TCI as many questions remain unanswered. We are not necessarily in favor of the title Medical Care Practitioner (MCP) as it still allows for ambiguity and does not clarify the PA role. The data presented by WPP related to the TCI investigation indicates that a branding strategy may be a higher priority than a title change.

### **Implications if the TCI is implemented**

A change in title for the profession would primarily require revisions of an administrative nature some of which result in additional costs related to the need for legal review of various documents. These changes include revising the title in documents including, but not limited to:

- Standards of Accreditation
- Articles of Incorporation
- Education workshop products
- Bylaws and Policies
- Website
- Recognition documents
- Business documents and contractual agreements

**Collaborating Organizations:** American Academy of Family Physicians • American Academy of Pediatrics • American Academy of Physician Assistants • American College of Physicians • American College of Surgeons • American Medical Association • Physician Assistant Education Association

**Member:** Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA)

**Recognized by:** Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

**Discussion points for further consideration**

- Will a new title address the primary concerns of PAs and specifically those directly related to the current title?
- What data exists to support the assertion that the current title is directly negatively impacting PA employment?
- Are the associated costs with a title change worth the investment? Are there other more mission critical initiatives that should be prioritized over a new title?
- What consideration has been given to the research firms ideas about marketing strategies that would include retaining the PA title?
- Can the “assistant” title be utilized in a new way to indicate that PAs are assisting patients, health care systems and society at large as opposed to being identified as assisting physicians?

Sincerely,



Sharon Luke, EdD, PA-C  
Executive Director

c: Jack Bierig, JD; Legal Counsel, ARC-PA