



Things to Know About **OPTIMAL TEAM PRACTICE**

The 2018 NCAPA board approved new positions statements around Optimal Team Practice, based on AAPA policy statements.

1. PAs are committed to our patients and do not want to change the PA role.

Patient safety is our top priority. PAs will continue to consult with and refer patients to other providers, including physicians, when indicated based on the patient's condition, the standard of care, and the PA's expertise and experience.

2. PAs want supervisory relationships determined at the practice level.

PAs value a sustained partnership with physicians, have high regard for physician training, and respect the PA-physician team in clinical practice. Indeed, the PA profession is deeply committed to team practice. PAs simply want to remove the requirement for a filed, written document naming a specific physician in order to practice. This removes physician liability for the care that PAs provide and reduces physician risk of disciplinary action for administrative reasons unrelated to patient care.

3. PAs want to have meaningful input into the regulation of their profession.

PAs want to be involved in any and all discussions related to PA practice and to have a dedicated seat on the NC Medical Board. As the number of licensed PAs grows in North Carolina, we want proportional PA representation on the board.

4. PAs want to remain viable in the changing healthcare marketplace.

PAs should be billing under his/her NPI number so that our work and contributions to the team can be tracked and quantified. On the federal level, PAs are not currently eligible for direct reimbursement under Medicare. The result is that PAs cannot work with certain staffing companies or in some corporate medical structures because PAs cannot reassign their insurance payment to their employers. This puts PAs at a disadvantage in the healthcare marketplace.

5. PAs strengthen healthcare teams.

Optimal Team Practice will make healthcare teams stronger by reducing administrative burdens and enabling practice-level decision making. PAs should practice using the full extent of their education, training and competency to provide optimal patient access and high-quality care. PAs further strengthen medical teams when skills the PA has acquired over a career are portable and can be used in whatever practice setting the PA is delivering care.