

Protect access to physician-led care

Patients are concerned about the cost and quality of health care. While there is certainly room for improvement in the health care system, allowing non-physicians, including nurse practitioners, to diagnose and treat patients without any physician oversight is a step in the wrong direction. The best way to support high-quality care and lower costs is to keep physicians as the leader of the health care team.

PHYSICIANS ARE TRAINED TO LEAD

With the highest level of education and **20x** the clinical training

Physicians

4 years



3–7 years



12,000–16,000 hours



Nurse practitioners

2–3 years

No residency

500–720 hours

All physicians get vital hands-on instruction, but **60%** of nurse practitioner programs in 2019 were mostly or completely online.

SCOPE EXPANSION INCREASES COSTS

X-ray ordering increased **441%** among non-physicians



Non-physicians needed **2x** the number of biopsies to screen for skin cancer

Patients were **15%** more likely to receive an antibiotic from a non-physician



6.3% of nurse practitioners prescribed opioids to over half of their patients compared to **1.3%** of physicians

PATIENTS PREFER PHYSICIAN-LED CARE

91% say a physician's education and training are vital for optimal care



3/4 would wait longer and pay more to be treated by a physician

3/4

95% say it's important for a physician to be involved in their diagnosis and treatment



Health care teams working together—with physicians in the lead—is critical to having the best and safest outcomes for patients.

MYTH

Allowing non-physicians to practice without physician involvement will increase access to care in rural and underserved areas.

FACT

States with laws allowing nurse practitioners to practice without physician supervision or collaboration has not guaranteed increased access in rural and underserved areas.

All patients, regardless of ZIP code, deserve care led by a physician.