

Survey Insights: Physician-Led Care

Physician assistants cite high satisfaction and key benefits of physician-led care

New findings from a national American Medical Association survey of physician assistants provide compelling evidence on the value of physician-led care. Notably, 100% of respondents stated they practice as part of a physician-led team. The vast majority report being very satisfied with this model and recognize significant benefits for patient care and safety. These results underscore the essential role of physician leadership in delivering high-quality, safe patient care.

Physician assistants tend to work on physician-led teams

In a national survey of 500 physician assistants, **100 percent report practicing on physician-led teams**. This includes respondents who indicate they work with a collaborating or supervising physician (90%), work as part of a physician-led team (83%), and/or have a written practice agreement with a physician (80%).

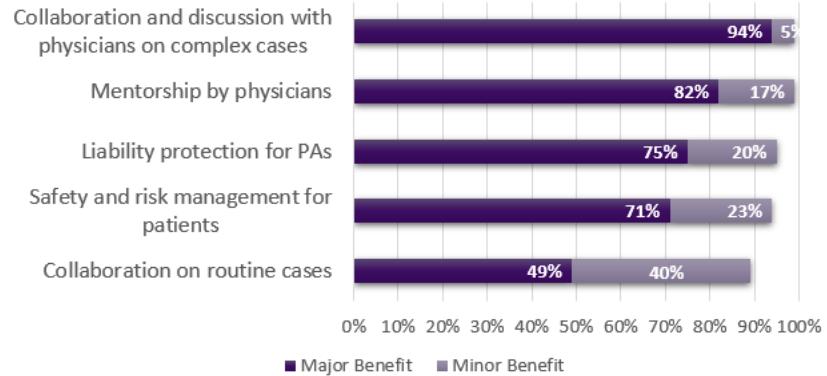
100% of respondents practice on a physician-led team
94% are satisfied working with physicians

Satisfaction with physician-led teams

Physician Assistants are overwhelmingly satisfied working with physicians. Among those who practice on physician-led teams, **94% report satisfaction** with **60% stating they are “very satisfied.”**

Physician assistants value physician supervision, collaboration, and mentorship

Physician Assistants highly value physician-led care. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of respondents said collaborating and discussing complex patient cases with physicians is a benefit, with 94% identifying it as a major benefit. Similarly, 99% value physician mentorship, and 94% cited patient safety as a key benefit of physician-led care.



Policy Implications

The AMA has long supported physician-led care, as research consistently demonstrates that physician involvement leads to better patient outcomes and ensures the highest standards of safety. This new survey data shows that physician assistants themselves overwhelmingly value physician leadership on care teams.

As lawmakers consider changes to scope of practice laws, these findings reaffirm the importance of keeping physicians central to patient care teams—not only for the satisfaction and confidence it brings to physician assistants, but also because patients want and expect physicians to be involved in their care. Maintaining strong physician leadership in health care teams is essential to ensuring quality, safety, and patient trust.

Data is from a national survey conducted July 16-Aug. 4, 2025, by Public Opinion Strategies. The survey consisted of 500 physician assistants with a credibility interval of $\pm 5.00\%$.