

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION RESIDENT AND FELLOW SECTION

Resolution: 5  
(I-21)

Introduced by: Gunjan Malhotra, MD; Benjamin Meyer, MD

Subject: Preserving Physician Leadership in Patient Care

Referred to: Reference Committee

---

1 Whereas, No credible, double-blinded, randomized controlled trial has been performed to  
2 evaluate the quality of care provided by non-physicians vs. physicians in settings that are truly  
3 characterized as “independent practice”<sup>2</sup>; and  
4

5 Whereas, Mid-level providers seeking independent practice falsely cite studies where non-  
6 physicians are supervised by physicians with equal outcomes as physicians as a reason to  
7 allow independent practice<sup>2</sup>; and  
8

9 Whereas, Studies show that care provided by mid-level providers is more expensive due to  
10 more frequent visits, more testing, and more home visits<sup>1,2</sup>; and  
11

12 Whereas, Some healthcare organizations preferentially fill the schedules of mid-level providers  
13 over physicians to increase profit or label physicians as “providers” in effort to undermine the  
14 trusted physician-patient relationship and challenge the traditional role physicians play as the  
15 sole qualified leader of the healthcare team<sup>2</sup>; and  
16

17 Whereas, If patients ask to be treated by a physician, they are falsely told that mid-level  
18 providers provide care that is equal to that of physicians<sup>2</sup>; and  
19

20 Whereas, There are efforts by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties by 2025  
21 to convert Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degrees into Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees  
22 (DNP), many of which are online programs without clear standards or curriculum requirements<sup>3</sup>;  
23 and  
24

25 Whereas, Many healthcare systems have changed National Doctors Day and National  
26 Physicians Week on and around March 30th to “National Provider Day” and “National Providers  
27 Week” to try and equate physicians with mid-level providers in the minds of patients and  
28 legislators<sup>2</sup>; and  
29

30 Whereas, Other health care team members have holidays to celebrate their contribution solely  
31 dedicated to them; therefore be it  
32

33 RESOLVED, That our AMA work with relevant stakeholders to conduct a study comparing care  
34 provided by physician-led health care teams versus care provided by unsupervised mid-level  
35 providers practicing independently with regard to quality, cost, and access and publish the  
36 findings in a peer reviewed journal such as JAMA; and be it further  
37

38 RESOLVED, That our AMA oppose physicians being referred to as “providers” in all healthcare  
39 settings; and be it further  
40

- 1 RESOLVED, That our AMA supports that National Physicians Week and National Doctors' Day
- 2 be reserved solely for recognizing physicians.

Fiscal Note:

---

**References:**

1. [The First U.S. Study on Nurses' Evidence-Based Practice Competencies Indicates Major Deficits That Threaten Healthcare Quality, Safety, and Patient Outcomes - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)
2. Al-Agba, Niran, and Rebekah Bernard. *Patients at Risk: the Rise of the Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant in Healthcare*. Universal-Publishers, Inc., 2020.
3. [NP to DNP: In Less Than 10 Years, All Nurse Practitioners May Need to Hold a DNP - Regis College Online](#)

**Relevant AMA Policy:**