

# 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 physician assistants, 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 clinical training

### Physicians

4 years



3–7 years



10,000–16,000 hours



### Physician assistants

2–2 1/2 years

No residency

2,000 hours

## 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



**8.4%** of physician assistants prescribed opioids  
to over half of their patients compared to **1.3%** of physicians

According to a leading ACO, patients with non-physician primary care providers had **\$43** higher spending per member per month compared to those who had a physician, which could translate to **\$10.3M** more in annual spending.

## 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

**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.**