

# 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.**