

Physician-led Care Teams

CALL TO ACTION

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.

In Michigan we know the importance of strong patient-physician relationships. Family physicians have distinctive skills, training and experience that they use every day to provide comprehensive medical care, health maintenance and preventive services. According to the American Association of Medical Colleges, the U.S. faces an estimated shortage of 48,000 physicians by 2034. There is no equivalency in the education of training between a physician and a nonphysician. Many allied health professionals have significantly fewer education requirements, no required residency, and less hands-on training without supervised training to practice independently.

PHYSICIANS ARE TRAINED TO LEAD

With the highest level of education and clinical training

Physicians

4 Years



Education

3-7 Years



Residency

10,000-16,000 hours



Education

Physician Assistants

2-2.5 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.



MICHIGAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

maofp
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF
OSTEOPATHIC FAMILY PHYSICIANS

What is Family Medicine?

Family medicine is a medical specialty practiced by family physicians. These physicians undergo extensive training to provide physician-led team-based, patient-centered care for people of all ages, from birth through end of life. They are experts in preventing illness and treating a wide range of symptoms affecting the body from head to toe.

About MAFP and MAOFP

Michigan Academy of Family Physicians and Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians collectively represent and support more than 5,000 family physicians, family medicine resident physicians, and medical students exploring careers in family medicine.

Michigan Academy of Family Physicians

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