

The Texas Academy of Physician Assistants Position Paper

Physician-Physician Assistant Team Concept

The physician assistant is a highly skilled **dependent** health care professional trained to practice medicine under physician supervision. Physicians conceived the physician assistant scope of practice and philosophy. The physician assistant training curriculum is designed in a medical model, similar to that for physicians. The physician assistant is disciplined academically, clinically, and philosophically as a **dependent** provider, augmenting the quality of health care provided by the physician.

The congenial history and nature of the physician assistant as a dependent provider cultivates a unique, provincial relationship with the physician. This collaborative affiliation is termed the **Physician-Physician Assistant Team Concept**. The Physician-Physician Assistant Team Concept maintains the physician as the principal manager and authority of health care delivery. The Physician-Physician Assistant Team Concept is a well-recognized health care team utilized extensively throughout Texas and the United States for over thirty years.

The Texas Academy of Physician Assistants is committed to the Physician-Physician Assistant Team Concept. It is promoted as a fundamental maxim of physician assistant professional practice. The Physician-Physician Assistant team concept is encouraged as one of the best solutions in providing accessible quality health care.

The distinctive relationship of the physician and physician assistant demands the intimate collaboration of both professions in addressing health care issues in Texas. The Texas Academy of Physician Assistants seeks and is emphatically dedicated to all levels of dialogue with the physician.