

Resolution

2021-06-14

Whereas,

The American Association of PAs's (AAPA) House of Delegates (HOD) recently passed a resolution "affirming 'physician associate' as the official title for the PA profession," the members of which are composed of individuals holding state licenses as Physician Assistants;

Whereas,

The AAPA states that "it is inappropriate for PAs to hold themselves out as 'physician associates' at this time until legislative and regulatory changes are made to incorporate the new title;"

Whereas,

Medical associations including the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and the American Academy of Dermatology Association ((AAD) have expressed concerns that the term "physician associate" is so ambiguous as to suggest without basis a change in the qualifications of individuals licensed as physician assistants;

Whereas,

This name change will exacerbate the challenges patients already face when discerning the qualifications of those who are both providing and leading their care;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. SCPS opposes any proposed California legislative and/or regulatory changes that have the effect of changing the name of the California Physician Assistant Board to Physician Associate Board or any other name that could by standard usage inaccurately suggest an increase in qualifications or scope of practice.
2. SCPS shall advise PPAC to work with the California Medical Association and other entities to proactively oppose such changes at a state level.
3. SCPS shall publish its opposition to such changes in its newsletter, along with the current PPAC position on this issue.