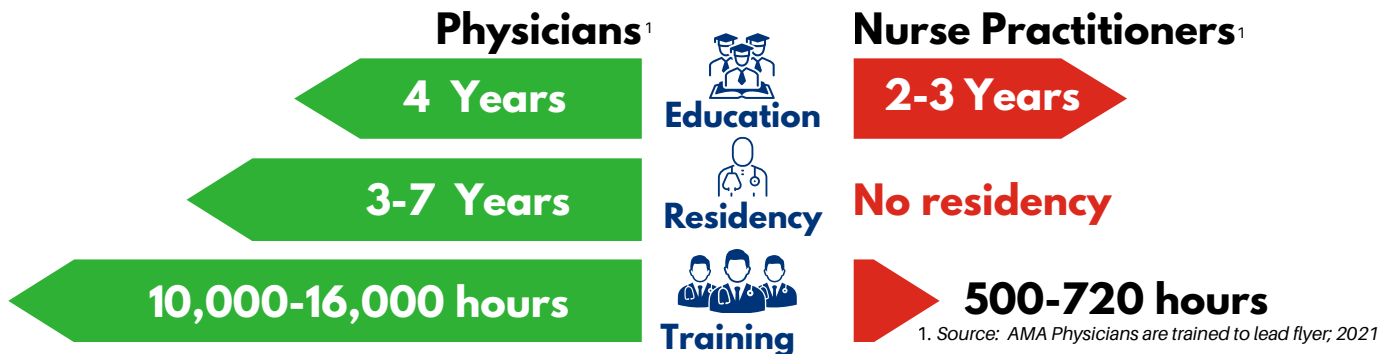


Physician-Led Care Team

Training Matters

When it comes to a serious health matter, you want somebody to care for you that has the highest level of training and education!



Physician Education:¹

Comprehensive: Studying all aspects of the human condition—biological, chemical, pharmacological and behavioral—in the classroom, laboratory and through direct patient care.

Hands-on: Rotating through different specialties during medical school, assisting licensed physicians.

Accredited: All residency programs are highly standardized and must be accredited by ACGME, with graded and progressive responsibility at the core of American graduate medical education.

Validating: After completing medical school, an accredited residency and establishing licensed practice, physicians may obtain board certification to further demonstrate their mastery of the knowledge.

Nurse Practitioner Education:¹

Abbreviated: NP can complete a master's (MSN) or doctor degree (DNP), with the majority completing a master's degree in 2-3 years.

Limited Hands-on: 60% of NP programs are completely or partially online.

Residency: Not required for graduation or licensure for NPs. Not standardized/inconsistent: There is no accrediting body that standardizes the education and training for NPs. NPs must pass a national certifying exam in a specific area, but are not required to practice in that area upon completion.

The Truth about APP Independent Practice

- It's often promoted that NPs will provide care in rural areas where physicians supposedly "won't" go. **The Truth:** The facts show that NPs are more likely to practice in the same geographic locations as physicians. This is true even in states that allow NPs to practice independently.
- It's often stated that NPs help fill the health care shortages around the United States. **The Truth:** Despite the rising number of NPs across the country, health care shortages still persist, even in states that allow NPs to practice independently.
- It's often stated that NPs help to fill the void in primary care. **The Truth:** CMS data shows that NPs are moving more into subspecialty practice. Physicians must complete a separate residency of at least 3 years to practice in a specialty, NPs can jump from one field to another without any additional formal training.
- It's often stated that NPs save the healthcare system money. **The Truth:** In a study performed by the Hattiesburg Clinic in Hattiesburg, MS, it showed that NPs spend nearly \$43 more per member per month. This highly regarded clinic cares for over 110,000 patients with 300 physicians and 100 NPs. This increased cost of care by NPs translates to an additional \$10.3 million in spending per year.²

2. Journal of the Mississippi State Medical Association, January 2022, "The Importance of the Physician Led Team." <https://ejournal.msmaonline.com/articles/editorial-the-importance-of-the-physician-led-team?m=63060&i=735364&view=contentsBrowser&ver=html5>

We urge legislators to vote **NO** on **HB 1635** and **HB 1989** (changes to collaborative practice agreements) and **SB 979** and **SB 1016** (prescriptive authority). All medical providers working together as a team with physicians at the helm provides the best outcomes for patients.