

Wyoming Medical Society
Board of Trustees
January - 2021

Position Statement Regarding PA Optimal Team Practice

Recognizing the division of opinion within the membership of the Wyoming Medical Society (WMS) and respecting the growing number of PAs among that membership, the WMS Board of Trustees voted on October 24, 2020, to remain neutral in future discussions around Optimal Team Practice (OTP) being supported and pursued by Wyoming PAs.

Wyoming physicians span the opinion spectrum regarding policy initiatives being pursued by PAs to remain competitive in a changing healthcare delivery landscape. While many WMS members hold varying perspectives on the best path forward, where WMS has found no disagreement is in physician support of the more than 300 Wyoming PAs and valuing the relationships between PAs and physicians.

Arguments favoring changing Wyoming law to remove the physician supervision requirement primarily focus on access to care, avoiding disruption of services when a supervising physician can no longer provide supervision, and seeking a more competitive standing with other non-physician healthcare professionals in employment settings across the state.

Those opposed to the change: don't believe sufficient evidence has been presented to support the claims that PAs are at a disadvantage in employment scenarios; don't believe that two years of training is adequate to support independent practice; deeply value the relationships that are fostered within the healthcare team with the supervision requirements currently in place.

WMS is committed to supporting policies that best serve Wyoming patients, support environments in which physicians and PAs can thrive, and maintain and promote the health and safety of the state's public. WMS remains hopeful that our position of neutrality will allow for our physicians and PAs to maintain healthy professional relationships based on mutual respect and that together the two professions can work toward enacting policies that prioritize patient safety.