

# Full Practice Authority and Responsibility (FPAR)

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## What can/should I be saying to my employer about FPAR?

If asked about the FPAR proposal, we suggest that you discuss the following basic points:

The PA community is currently discussing a proposal by an AAPA task force that has recommended PA Full Practice Authority and Responsibility. The task force proposal includes four suggestions for AAPA policy:

- Emphasize the PA profession's continued commitment to team-based practice.
- Support the elimination of provisions in laws and regulations that require a PA to have and/or report a supervisory, collaborating or other specific relationship with a physician in order to practice.
- Advocate for the establishment of autonomous state boards, with a voting membership comprised of a majority PAs, to license, regulate, and discipline PAs.
- Ensure that PAs are eligible to be reimbursed directly by public and private insurance.

The task force believes that this proposal will benefit patients, physicians, and PA employers, as well as PAs.

- PAs have a demonstrated track record of providing high quality care to patients.
  - A recent study of the impact of changes in PA and NP scope of practice laws on Medicaid patient outcomes and costs over a 14-year period found that "broadened scope of practice increased access to care without infringing on the quality of service delivered to Medicaid patients, and in states that broadened PAs' scope of practice specifically, costs associated with outpatient services fell".<sup>1</sup>
- Changes in the health care system are putting PAs at a disadvantage relative to NPs. In many states (21 at this time), NPs don't have to take the extra step of formally tying themselves to a physician, so it is easier for employers to hire and utilize NPs.
- At the same time, physicians are increasingly employees, rather than employers, and are less willing to assume legal responsibility for the medical care provided by PAs. And, frankly, there is no reason they should; PAs should be responsible for the care they provide.
- As a result of both of these factors, employers are finding it more difficult to utilize PAs, which affects their bottom line, as well.
  - For patients, eliminating the supervisory requirement is expected to result in more time for both PAs and physicians to spend with patients, rather than on unnecessary and unhelpful paperwork.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://contemporaryclinic.pharmacytimes.com/newsviews/hownpsandpasprovidequalitycareto-medicaidbeneficiaries>

- Further, if FPAR were implemented, employers would have more flexibility to have PAs move to other departments/specialty areas within the organization/hospital/hospital system.

After explaining the basics of the proposal and the reasons behind it, you may want to ask something like:

Are there any changes to the proposed policy that you believe would make it more beneficial to [name of organization]?