



MEAPA Optimal Team Practice (OTP) Fact Sheet

The goals of LR 1174, An Act To Increase Access to Primary Care by Amending the Licensing Requirements for Physician Assistants, are as follows:

1. To expand patient access to quality health care services by modernizing PA licensing requirements.
2. To decrease the regulatory burden placed on physicians.
3. To improve PA competitiveness in the job market.
4. To align PA clinical practice laws with current practice by creating collaborative agreements with physicians.
5. To improve the PA-physician board ratio by adding a second PA to each board of licensure.

Updates physician-PA relationship from “supervision” to “collaboration.”

- Describes current practice. Day-to-day practice would not change.
- Eliminates current administrative burdens that are unrelated to patient safety.
- Expands access to health care for rural and underserved populations.
- Establishes PA and NP parity in the Maine marketplace.
- Improves Maine-based job opportunities for UNE PA program graduates.

Eliminates language that implies physician liability for PA care.

- Ensures sustainability of the physician-PA relationship.

Allows scope of practice to be determined at the practice level by a PA’s individual education, training, and experience.

- Ensures PA ability to practice to the extent of their education and training.
- Ensures PA competency through existing institutional practice guidelines and credentialing processes.

Authorizes PAs to participate in disaster/volunteer activities within a PA’s scope of practice.

- Maximizes Maine’s use of health care providers in disaster/volunteer settings.
- Removes delays in care due to outdated, bureaucratic, and inhibitory paperwork.
- Encourages community development, public service, and volunteerism.

Expands the PA role in the governance of their profession.

- Updates the efficacy and credibility of Maine’s Board of Licensure in Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine by increasing the number of PAs on each board to two.
- Ensures that those most knowledgeable about the profession are involved in its regulation.
- Prevents ongoing stagnation of laws/regulations of the profession.
- Ensures market parity with other health care professions.

Allows PAs to be self-employed.

- Promotes expansion of health care access to rural parts of Maine.
- Ensures team-based health care through a collaborative PA/physician practice agreement.

Authorizes direct payment by third party payers and Medicare.

- Allows for accurate collection of PA quality metrics tied to patient care outcomes.
- Establishes equitable payment practices.
- Aligns payment practices with all other health care professions.