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Physician Assistant Practice in Utah Issues, Facts, Solutions

Utah Academy of Physician Assistants



What is a PA

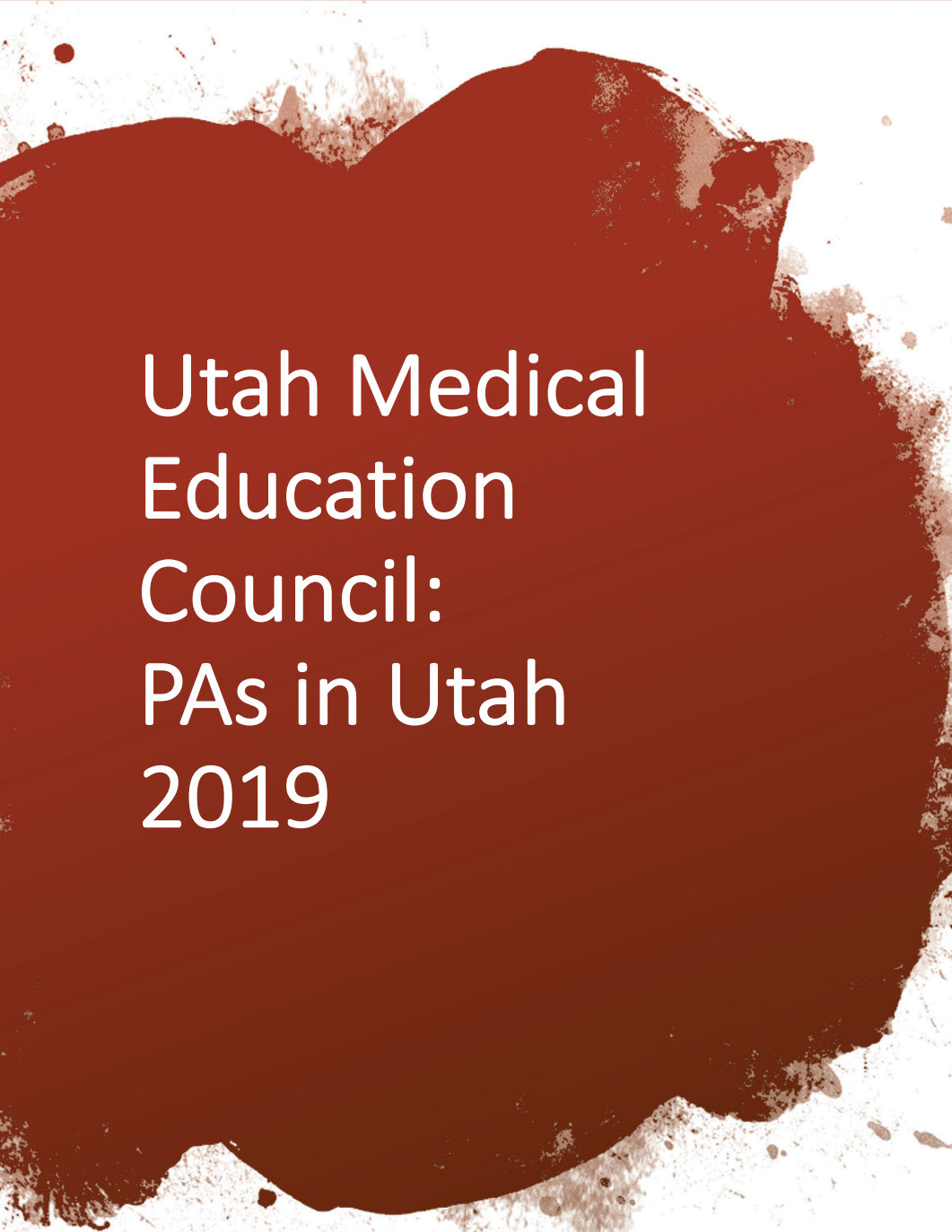
PAs are medical providers who diagnose illness, develop and manage treatment plans, prescribe medications, and often serve as a patient's primary care provider.

With thousands of hours of medical training, PAs are very skilled and knowledgeable.

PAs practice in every state and in every medical setting.

They are dedicated to improving healthcare access and quality.





Utah Medical Education Council: PAs in Utah 2019

- PAs licensed
- 1357
services
- Growth
- Annual
- Native U

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Physician Assistant P Issues



PA Practice Issues

1. Supervising Physician Model

- Healthcare Teams
- Physician Liability
- Scope of Practice
- Employment vs. Private Practice
Physicians & PAs





PA Practice Issues

2. Direct Billing

- PA Data
- PA Contracting
- Medicaid patient access

PA Practice Issues

3. Regulation

- PA Board of the Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing

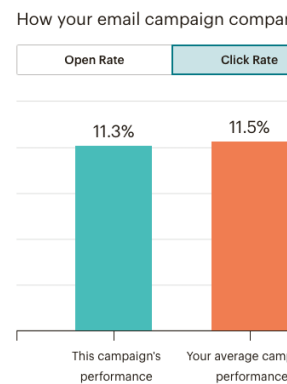


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Physician Assistant Pr Facts

Survey Data Summary

- 8 Section Survey
- MailChimp
 - 3 emails sent to 1195 members of the American Academy of Physician Assistants living in Utah
 - November 6 – 19 2019
- 308/1195 responses – 26%
- Confidence level – 95%
- Margin of error – 5%
- Demographics match those of the Utah Medical Education Council for PAs in 2019



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“ Issue #1:
The Supervising
Physician Model

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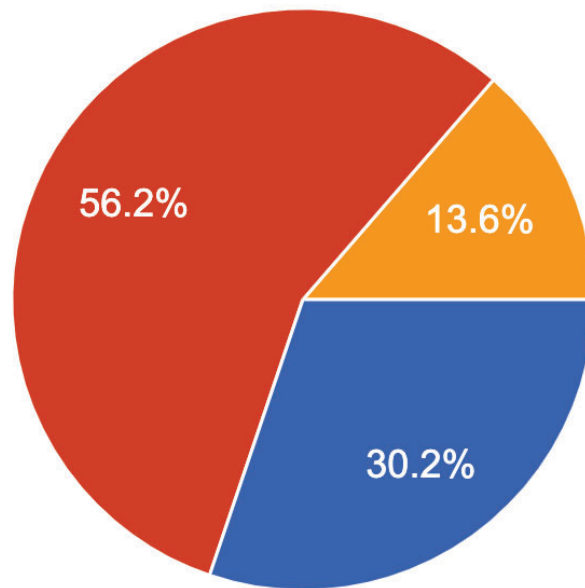
Many physicians and PAs work in practices or hospital settings where require PA-physician agreements with their ability to make practice decisions about patient care team

As a PA have you been personally affected by

Many physicians and PAs work in group practices or hospitals where PA-physician agreements interfere with their ability to make decisions about patient care teams.

As a PA, have you been personally affected by this issue?

308 responses



Qualitative Themes – 82 Responses



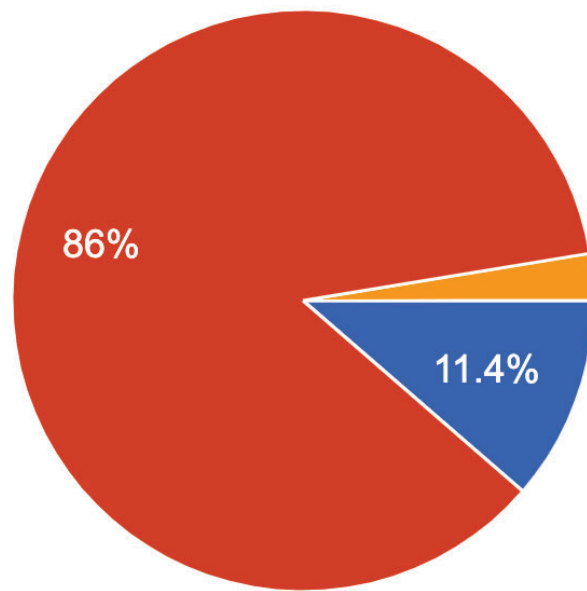
“ Currently, the retirement, sudden disability, or death of a physician with whom a PA has a delegation of services agreement (DOSAs) may mean the PA can no longer provide healthcare services to patients if the PA has been their primary care provider.

**As a PA have you been personally affected by this issue?
Do you worry about this issue?**

Currently, the retirement, sudden relocation, disphysician with whom a PA has a delegation of se (DOSA) may mean the PA can no longer provide patients, even if the PA has been their primary c

As a PA, have you been personally affected by this issue?

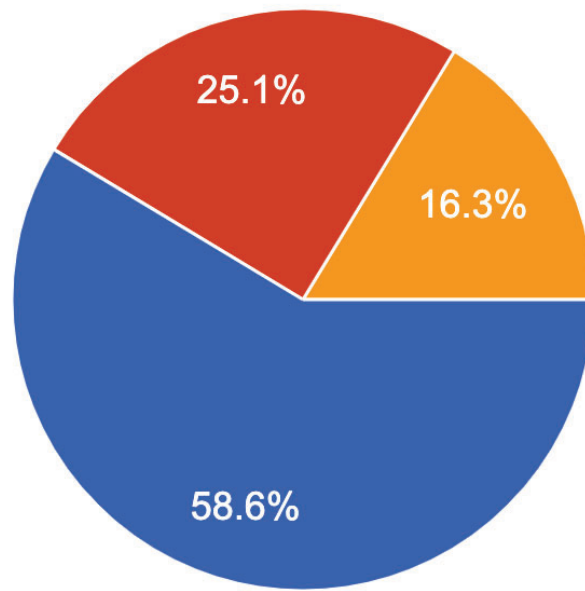
308 responses



Currently, the retirement, sudden relocation, disphysician with whom a PA has a delegation of se (DOSA) may mean the PA can no longer provide patients, even if the PA has been their primary c

Do you worry about this issue?

307 responses



Qualitative Themes - 79 Respo

A word cloud of qualitative themes from 79 responses. The words are arranged in a dense, overlapping cluster. The most prominent words are 'physician', 'work', 'care', 'group', 'job', 'not', 'need', 'worry', 'rural', 'longer', 'problem', 'community', 'agreement', 'waver', 'go', 'left', 'health', 'PA', and 'above'. The colors used are orange, black, and dark red.

group care health
PA work above
longer rural problem
physician go left
job worry waver community
need not agreement an

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Issue #2: Direct Payment

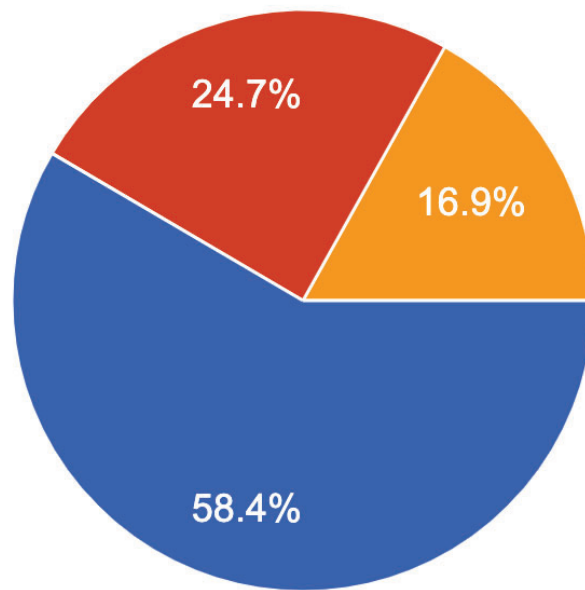
“ PAs are not eligible for direct payment from Medicare and nearly all commercial insurers and payers. Most payers require that payment be made to a PA's employer, which can unintentionally limit PA employment opportunities. It also makes it nearly impossible to collect practice data for PAs because their work is linked to the physician.

As a PA have you been personally affected by

PAs are not eligible for direct payment from Medicare and other insurance payers. Most payers require that payment be made to the physician, which can unintentionally limit PA employment opportunities. It is impossible to collect practice data for PAs because every physician has PAs.

As a PA, have you been personally affected by this issue?

308 responses



Qualitative Themes – 104 Resp



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Issue #3: Regulation

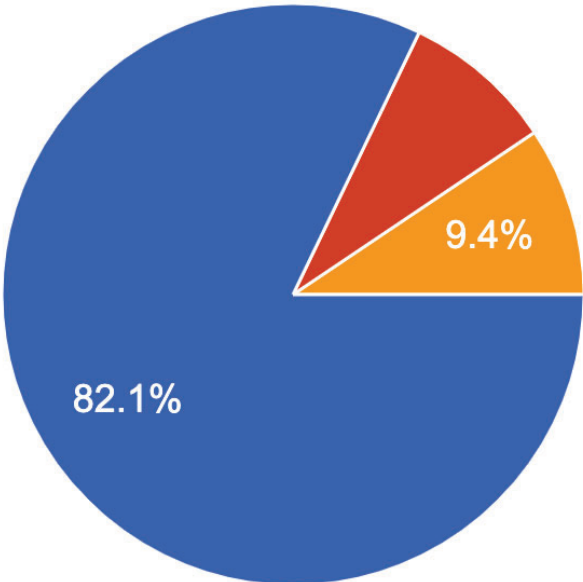
“ In Utah, physicians are regulated by a medical board composed of physicians. Nurses are regulated by a nursing board made up of nurses. PAs are regulated by a board that has 3 physicians (only 2 of which are required to have experience working with PAs), 3 PA members, and 1 public member. Some argue only PAs or at least a majority should constitute the makeup of the regulatory board.

Do you agree with this statement?

In Utah, physicians are regulated by a medical board composed of physicians. PAs are regulated by the nursing board made up of nurses. The board that has 3 physicians (only 2 of which are required to have PAs), 3 PAs, and a lay public member. Some argue only PAs should constitute the makeup of the PA regulatory board.

Do you agree with this statement?

308 responses



Qualitative Themes – 91 Responses



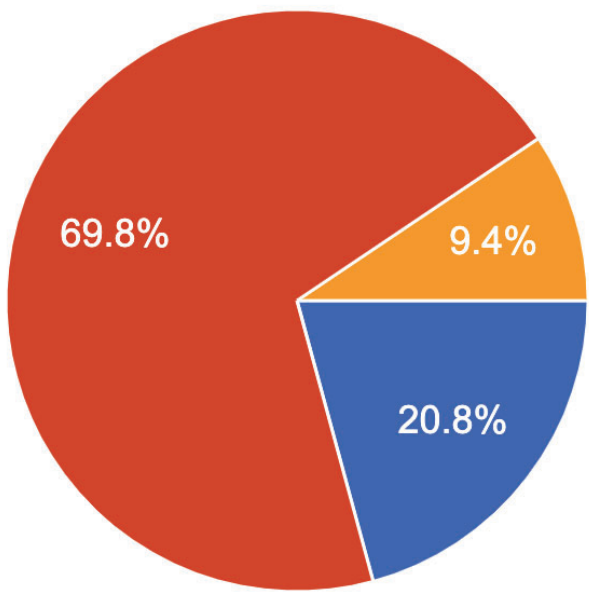
“ When PAs have a specific supervising the delegation of services agreement their employers may lack flexibility in healthcare teams. The agreement also physician liability for the care that PAs when physicians are not involved, and physician and employer risk of discipline for administrative reasons.

As a PA have you been personally affected by

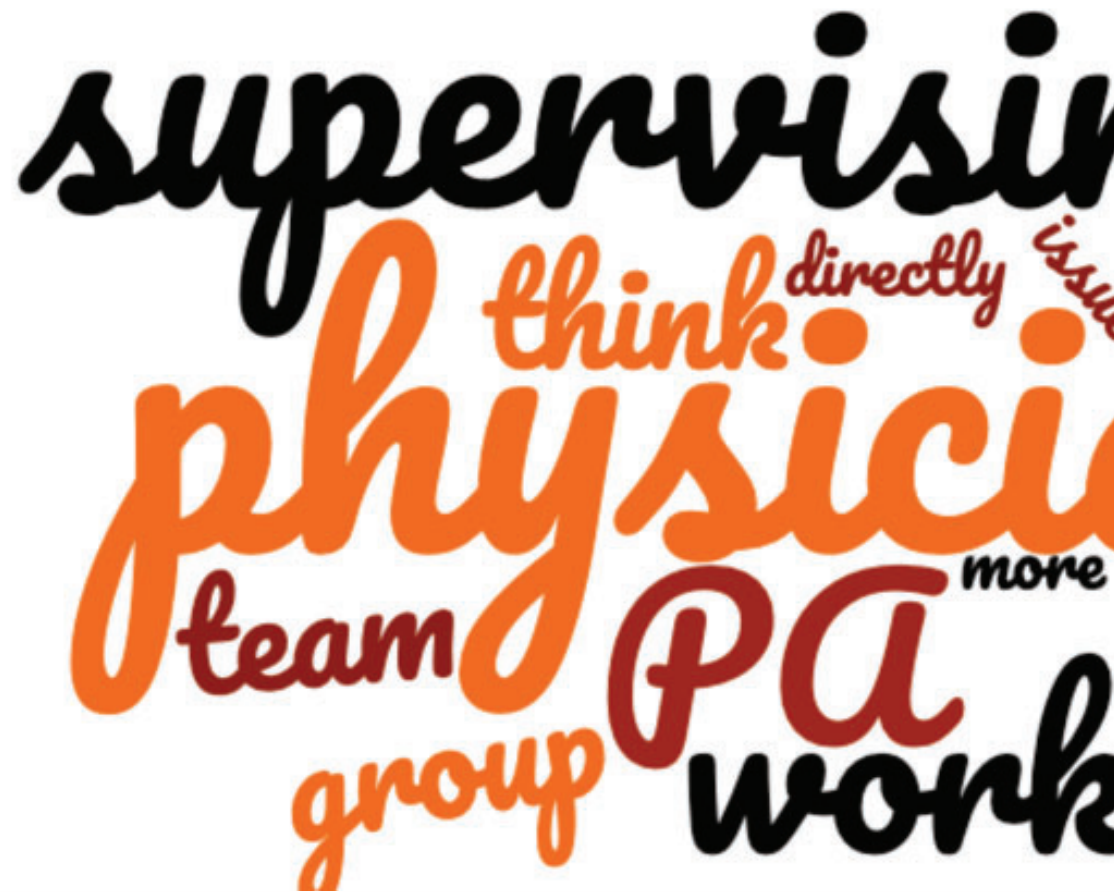
When PAs have a specific supervising physician by the de agreement (DOSA), their employers may lack flexibility in The agreement also allows for physician liability for the o physicians are not involved, and increases physician and action for administrative reasons.

As a PA, have you been personally affected by this issue? *

308 responses



Qualitative Themes – 50 Responses



A word cloud of qualitative themes from 50 responses. The words are written in a casual, handwritten style. The most prominent words are 'supervising' (black, top left), 'physician' (orange, middle), and 'work' (black, bottom right). Other visible words include 'think' (orange), 'directly' (small orange), 'issue' (small orange), 'team' (orange), 'group' (orange), 'PA' (dark red), and 'more' (small black).

supervising
think directly issue
physician
team PA more
group work

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Solutions:
PA Practice Moderni



PA Prac Modern

- Eliminate
for a *spec*
between
other hea
order for
full exten
training, a

PA Practice Modernization

- PAs should be fully responsible for the care they provide.



PA Practice Modernization



- Adjust the
- 3 Phys
- 2 Phys

PA Practice Modernization

- Authorize PAs to be eligible for direct payment by all public and private insurers.



PA Practice Modernization



PATIENTS

will have **greater access** to **high-quality healthcare.**



EMPLOYERS

will have **more flexibility** in determining **healthcare teams.**



LEGISLATORS

will see **increased** and **lower Medicaid costs** in their states.

Support of PA Practice Modernization

“The changes PAs are seeking represent a natural evolution of the PA profession. Patients, especially in rural and underserved areas, will benefit from greater access to the high-quality care that PAs provide.”

-Bill Finerfrock

Executive Director National Association of Rural Health Clinics



Support of PA Practice Modernization

“Removing unnecessary restrictions on PA practice, such as eliminating the requirement for PAs to have an agreement with a specific physician in order to practice, would help alleviate healthcare shortages and improve efficiency with no adverse effects on patient outcomes.”

-E. Kathleen Adams, Ph.D. and Sara Markowitz, Ph.D.

The Brookings's Institution's Hamilton Project



Support of PA Pr



“Stat
elim
rigid
super
physi
exter
assist



U.S. De
Service
-Secret
-Secret
-Secret

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Thank You

Utah Academy of Physician Assistants