

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
POLICY

Subject: Ancillary Healthcare Providers  
Document Number: PS-158-0  
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POLICY STATEMENT

The South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) shall oppose legislation or regulation that allows ancillary healthcare providers to include physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and other ancillary healthcare providers' independent practice.

The SDSMA shall also oppose the efforts of the physician assistants to change the name of their profession to physician associate.

The SDSMA believes physician assistants, advanced practice nurses and other ancillary healthcare providers should provide patient care services only in accord with the medical practice act and other applicable South Dakota law, under an agreement that has been reviewed and approved by the South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners.

The SDSMA further believes physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and other ancillary healthcare providers should function under the direction of and supervision by a duly qualified licensed physician. The physician must always maintain the ultimate responsibility to assure that high quality care is provided to every patient. In discharging that responsibility, the physician should exercise that amount of control or supervision over the physician assistant, advanced practice nurse or other ancillary healthcare provider which is appropriate for the maintenance of quality medical care and in accord with existing state law and the rules and regulations of the medical licensing authority.

While it is preferable and desirable that physician assistants, advanced practice nurses and other ancillary healthcare providers be employed by a physician or group of physicians so as to ensure appropriate physician supervision, where physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and other ancillary healthcare providers are employed by a hospital, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and other ancillary healthcare providers must provide patient care services in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the organized medical staff and under the direction and supervision of a designated physician.

AUTHORITY

South Dakota State Medical Association Council of Physicians and Policy Council, 11/19/1993, 6/4/2021; Reaffirmed by South Dakota State Medical Association Board of Directors 7/17/2021.