**PA Practice Reform Fact Sheet**

**Washington Academy of Physician Assistants**

**October 2018**

**PAs laws need to be updated**

* PA practice laws impose unique burdens on PAs that originated fifty years ago when the profession was created. These burdens make it hard for physicians and employers to work with PAs to improve access to care in the modern medical model.
* PAs cannot work until the Medical Commission has reviewed and approved a delegation agreement with one specific physician who must take on responsibility and liability for the PA’s work. If an employer reassigns a PA, they must get a new approval from the Medical Commission.
* Physicians may not supervise more than five PAs (unless approved via special petition to the Medical Commission), and PAs in remote sites must be authorized by the Medical Commission.
* PAs cannot volunteer or provide disaster relief without their one specific physician providing supervision.

**PAs face barriers in the healthcare workforce**

* Many physicians don’t want the burden of supervising PAs or liability for their work.
* Employers find it easier to hire and manage nurse practitioners because they can work without delegation agreements or supervision, at any site that needs clinical staff.

**PAs are well trained**

* PA programs provide over 3000 hours of didactic and clinical training.
* Once licensed, PAs complete the same CME as physicians—50 hours/year.

**PA restrictions are not needed to assure quality care**

* PAs provide the same quality of care as physicians and other health care practitioners.
* Most PAs practice in a highly autonomous way, just as physicians and other health care practitioners.

**Help us change the law to promote equal opportunity, access to safe, quality care and enhance public safety**

* Modernize PA practice laws to improve access to quality care for patients in Washington state.