

For PAs, we now have an opportunity to demonstrate the art of healing, despite the direction that medicine may be heading today. But we cannot do it if our lives and our own mental and physical health are impaired. I would ask you to please take a hard look at yourselves and your work and be more mindful of what you do and why you do it. Be more committed to demonstrating by your demeanor, your handshake, your face and your style toward your patients that they are the most important person in the world at that moment and that you will do what you can to help them through their medical journey at that time. I can still remember one of my professors saying to me decades ago, often because of my complaining that someone mistreated me because of my ethnicity and the color of my skin, he would calmly say to me, "Son, we are to gather warmth, from the coldness of others". While difficult to do, after 50 years of trying, while I'm better at it than I used to be, I'm still working on it.

Even the medical literature has demonstrated the pitfalls of poor Physician-Patient Communication as reported by Levinson, Roter and Mullooly et al in JAMA 1997; 277: 553-559 where it warned us back in 1997, "In examining this doctor-patient hypothesis, recent research has found that physicians who exhibit more negative communication behaviors are more likely to have been sued in the past for malpractice than those with more positive doctor-patient relations".

And even recently, those reportedly temperamental Cardio-Thoracic surgeons, at their most recent Society of Thoracic Surgeons meeting in L.A. this winter adopted their new "Policy for Respectful Scholarly Discourse to address the ongoing problem of unprofessional and disruptive behavior among members at conferences and events."

In conclusion, I urge us all to never forget why we all made the sacrifices in our lives to become the "healers" that we dreamed to be and to have that great career that we thought we could have. It starts with healing and caring for ourselves first so we can be the best PAs we can be for our Washington Citizens who need and want us to help them.

## OCHS Facilities Program

On January 10, 2025, Governor Jay Inslee issued directive 25-01 which directs the Department of Health (the department) to adopt an emergency rule regarding emergency abortion care in Washington State. The department filed an amendment to existing rules to ensure access to treatment, including abortion care, for emergency medical conditions in hospital emergency departments and to protect a pregnant person's right to exercise informed consent in prioritizing their health and safety when receiving treatment for emergency medical conditions in hospital emergency departments. [The emergency rule](#) was filed on January 13, 2025, and went into effect immediately.

The department will also conduct rulemaking to make these requirements permanent. Rulemaking notifications will be sent to the hospital distribution list using the state's GovDelivery email notifications. You can find information about hospital rulemaking projects at [Hospitals-Rules in Progress | Washington State Department of Health](#) and you can [learn more about rulemaking](#).

LEGAL ACTIONS  
COMPLAINTS