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The Year of the PA: New Laws and Changes to Practice

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About WAPA

- Washington Academy of Physician Assistants (WAPA)
- Represents the 4,500+ PAs across Washington state
- WAPA supports PAs with a number of services
- WAPA is active on social media and through their member newsletter
 - Facebook: Washington Academy of Physician Assistants
 - Instagram: wapa_pa1
 - LinkedIn: Washington Academy of Physician Assistants



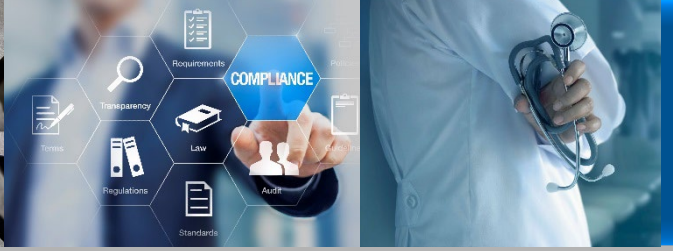
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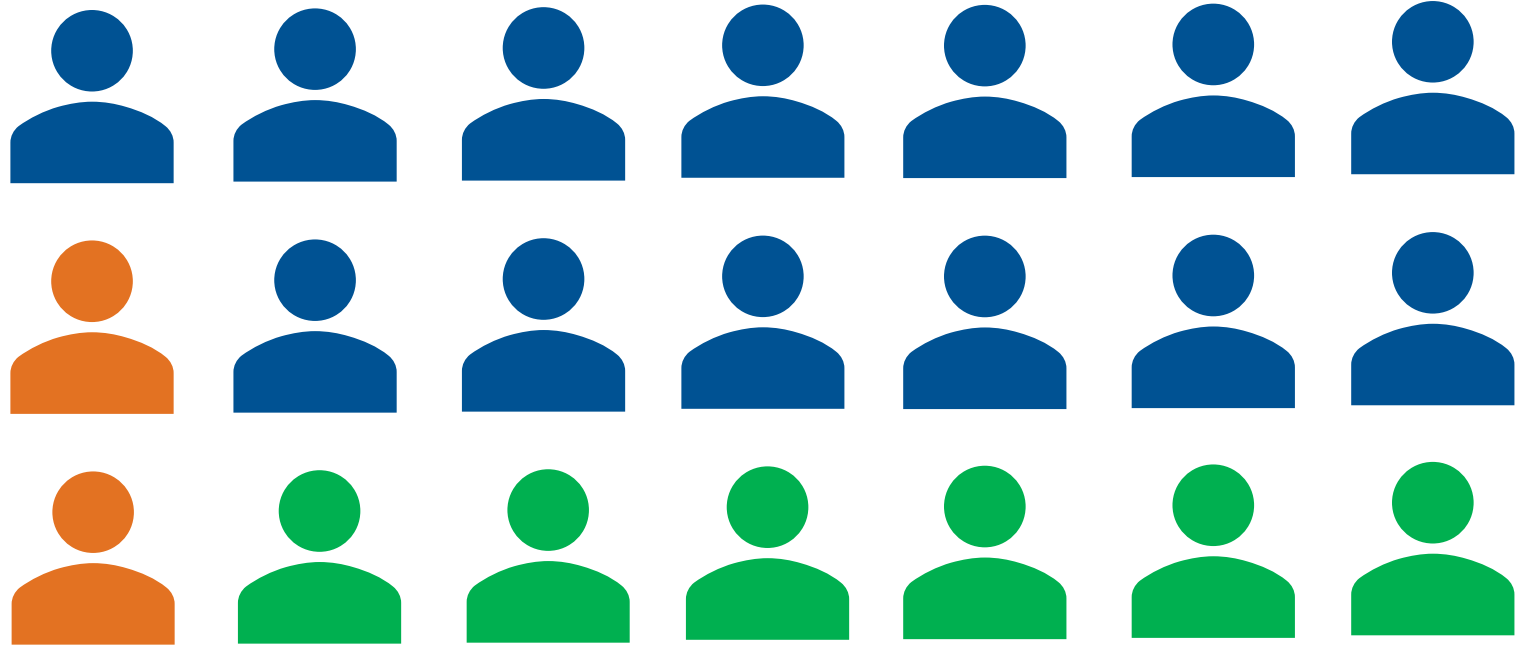
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Medical Commission: WHO



Physician

Physician Assistant

Public Member



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About WMC

- Founded in Article XX of State Constitution
- Independent regulatory authority for MDs, PAs, and now CAAs
- 36,000+ licensees, 5,500+ are PAs
- 62 staff (licensing, investigations, legal, compliance, policy, comms)
- \$27 million biennial budget



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PA Compact

- House Bill 1917 passed in the 2024 Legislative Session
- Authorizes the WMC to join the PA Compact
- Compact activates upon 7th state joining, Washington was 4th
- 10th state has joined and two more are pending
- Compact basics
 - Agreement between states recognized in federal law
 - Compacts supersede state law where there are conflicts
 - PA compact issues a “privilege” to practice
 - WMC plans to issue a privilege document
 - PT Compact implementation
- Timeline Discussion



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PA Collaborative Practice Bill

- House Bill 2041 passed in the 2024 Legislative Session
 - Replaces the supervision model with collaborative practice model for experienced PAs, creating a tiered pipeline to collaboration
 - Supervised PAs: PAs who have under 4,000 hours of postgraduate clinical practice and 2,000 hours of specialty practice.
 - And for the first 2,000 hours after switching to a new specialty
 - Collaborative PAs: PAs who meet the hour requirements above
 - They can interact with, consult with, or refer to a physician or other appropriate members of the health care team as indicated by the patient's condition, the education, experience, and competencies of the physician assistant, and the standard of care



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PA Collaborative Practice Bill - 2

- PA Scope of Practice
 - Mirrors the participating physician's or the group of physicians that the PA is working with in that specialty area(s) or department
- Exception to new PA Scope of Practice Rule
 - PAs who have 10 years or 20,000 hours of specialty experience can work outside the specialty of their participating physician(s) if they continue to obtain CME in that specialty and they are working in a medically underserved or rural area
 - This expanded scope must be described in a collaboration agreement



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PA Collaborative Practice Bill - 3

- All PAs will sign collaborative agreements rather than practice agreements
- Eliminates WMC role in agreement approval/collection
- Collaborative agreement can be signed by participating physician or the PA employer (i.e. medical director)
- Removes the physician to PA ratio
- Authorizes direct pay/reimbursement for PA-provided care
- Removes physician liability for the care provided by PAs. PAs are legally responsible for their medical decisions.



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PA Collaboration Bill-4

- WMC Actions and Timeline
 - April 2024-rulemaking initiated to change language
 - May-June 2024: model collaborative agreement updated on website
 - Jun 5 5pm: Practice Agreement portal deactivated
 - October 2024: expedited rules should be final
- July 1, 2025, or next renewal, whichever is longer: All PAs must convert from practice agreement to collaboration agreement



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