

# Protect access to physician-led care

Patients are concerned about the cost and quality of health care. While there is certainly room for improvement in the health care system, allowing non-physicians, including physician assistants, to diagnose and treat patients without any physician oversight is a step in the wrong direction. The best way to support high-quality care and lower costs is to keep physicians as the leader of the health care team.

## PHYSICIANS ARE TRAINED TO LEAD

### Physicians

4 years

3-7 years

10,000 - 16,000 hours



Education



Residency



Training

### Physician Assistants

2-2.5 years

No residency

2,000 hours

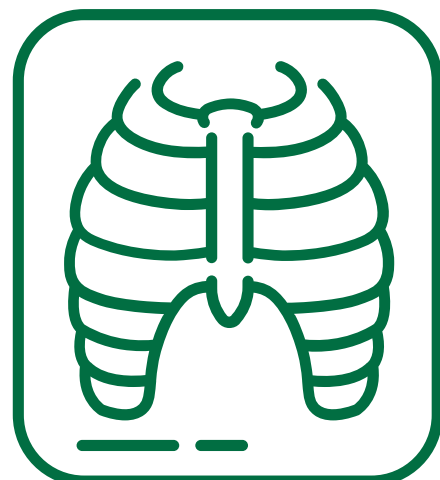
**All patients, regardless of ZIP code, deserve care led by a physician.**

# Scope Expansion Increases Costs

X-ray ordering  
increased

**441%**

among non-physicians



Patients were

**15%**

more likely  
to receive  
an antibiotic from a  
non-physician



Non-physicians needed

**2X**

the number of biopsies  
to screen for skin  
cancer

**8.4%** of physician  
assistants  
prescribed opioids to  
over half of their  
patients, compared to

**1.5%** of physicians

According to a leading ACO, patients with non-physician primary care providers had

**441%**

higher spending per month compared to those  
who had a physician, which could translate to

**\$10.3M**

more in annual  
spending

# Patients prefer physician-led care



**91%**

say a physician's education and training are vital for optimal care

**3/4**

would wait longer and pay more to be treated by a physician

**95%**

say it's important for a physician to be involved in their diagnosis and treatment

**Health care teams working together — with physicians in the lead — is critical to having the best and safest outcomes for patients.**