

- 79 percent of respondents agreed that nurse practitioners should not be able to practice independently of physicians, without physician supervision, collaboration, or oversight.

Enabling APRNs to practice independently dismisses clear patient preference for the physician-led model of care delivery and the undersigned reiterate their strong opposition to the VHA Proposed Rule. If the VHA moves forward with this proposal despite our opposition, VA beneficiaries and their surrogates should have all the information necessary to make informed health care decisions consistent with the current Administration's focus on transparency. This includes advance, clear, and conspicuous notification of whether the beneficiary will be seen by a doctor of medicine or osteopathy or by a non-physician provider. The right to opt out of the health care appointment and to reschedule with the preferred type of provider is critical to engaging patients in their health care choices and to providing veterans with the benefits they have so deservedly earned.

### Conclusion

The undersigned believe that policymakers serve patients best by supporting team-based care that makes the most of the respective education and training of physicians and APRNs as part of a collaborative framework. Patients deserve to have a physician on their team, whether that is for the treatment and management of chronic conditions, or for surgery. Nowhere is this more important than in the VHA, which delivers highly complex medical care to our nation's veterans. To that end, **the undersigned urge the VHA to preserve the highest quality of care and protect the safety of our nation's veterans and not move forward with the proposed rule.**

Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research  
Advocacy Council of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
American Association of Clinical Urologists  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electromyography Medicine  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine