



Myth: Non-Physicians cost less

Fact: Non-Physicians increase cost of care, without significant benefit



Resident physician teams are economically more efficient than mid-level provider teams and have higher patient satisfaction.

Despite having higher risk patients, the hospitalist-resident teams had shorter lengths-of-stay by 1.26 days and \$617 less direct costs per patient. Patient satisfaction scores were higher for resident teams.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26217425/>



NPs referred more often to Heart, Endocrine, and Kidney Specialists compared to physicians. NPs were more likely to prescribe inappropriate medications for patients with diabetes compared to physicians

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jgs.13662>



PAs performing skin biopsies had both more missed cancers and more unnecessary biopsies relative to MD/DO dermatologists.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29710082>

Myth: Non-Physicians provide the same quality of care

Fact: Non-Physicians do not provide the same quality of care



Rates of death and complications were lower when MD/DO anesthesiologists directed the anesthesia care.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10861159/>



When supervision is removed from midlevels, they are 20 times more likely to overprescribe opioids

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32333312/>



The proportion of psychotropic medication prescribed by psychiatric NPs increased by ~51%, by non-psychiatric NPs by ~29%. By contrast, physician prescribing decreased (by ~55% for psychiatrists and 32% by other MD/DO's).

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/m/pubmed/29641238/>



85% of malpractices cases against NPs were due to failure to diagnose, delay to diagnose, misdiagnosis, errors in treatment, and medication errors.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28734486/>



Physicians MD/DO

12,000 - 16,000 hours
*Standardized
Training*

**3-7 years
residency**
(supervised
training, where all
medical decisions
are vetted by
attending
physician)

**4 years Medical
School MD/DO**
(~ 4,000 clinical
hours)

**4 years
undergrad**

Nurse Practitioners

500 - 720 hours
*Non-Standardized
Exposure*

DNP programs
are administrative,
management
programs with no
medical school
level training

No residency
Non-standardized
shadowing
**2 years Masters in
Nursing**

**2-4 years
undergrad**

Physician Assistants

2,000 hours
*Non-Standardized
Exposure*

DScPAS programs
are administrative,
management
programs with no
medical school
level training

No residency
Non-standardized
shadowing

**2 years PA
school**

**4 years
undergrad**