

1 **RESOLUTION #21-01**

2 **ENTITLED:** Opposing Physician Assistant Name Change

3 **SUBMITTED BY:** Teresa Lovins, MD, FAAFP

4

5 WHEREAS, there is already some confusion about which providers are caring for our Indiana patients
6 with physician assistants and nurse practitioners being designated as Physician Providers in some
7 advertising by large medical organization and in their physician directories(1)(2), and

8

9 WHEREAS, the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) has voted to rename their
10 profession to Physician Associates only confusing the patients more about who is providing their
11 care(3), and

12 WHEREAS, the AAPA even states that this “could be viewed as confusing to patients” but had decided
13 to proceed ahead with the name change(4), and

14

15 WHEREAS, there are several states in the United States that are licensing graduated medical doctors
16 as Assistant Physicians or Associate Physicians creating more confusion for patients (5)(6)(7), and

17 WHEREAS, 76% of Hoosiers believe that physicians should have primary responsibility for
18 coordinating patient care(8); now therefore be it

19

20 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians oppose any effort of the Physician
21 Assistants in Indiana to change their name officially to Physician Associates, and be it further

22 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians continue to oppose any effort of the
23 Physician Assistants to have independent practice in Indiana.

24

25 (1) <https://healthcare.ascension.org/DoctorDirectory> Doctor Directory Accessed June 8, 2021

26 (2) <https://www.franciscanhealth.org/find-a-doctor/> Doctor Directory Accessed June 8, 2021

27 (3) <https://www.aapa.org/news-central/2021/05/aapa-house-of-delegates-votes-to-change-profession-title-to-physician-associate/> Accessed June 8, 2021

28 (4) *“Prematurely using the term “physician associate” may be viewed as confusing to patients and
29 could be interpreted as the PA stepping beyond the scope of their current license. This could
30 subject the PA to a regulatory challenge or discipline from their state licensing board or an
31 attorney general’s office action. Other professions looking to hold back the PA profession may
32 seize upon such premature usage to file complaints with the regulators.”*

33 <https://www.aapa.org/title-change-investigation/faqs/> Accessed June 8, 2021

34 (5) <https://www.patientrue.com/post/wait-what-is-an-assistant-physician-is-this-the-same-as-a-physician-assistant/> Accessed June 8, 2021

35 (6) <https://assistantphysicianassociation.com/> Accessed June 8, 2021

36 (7) <https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/advocacy/workforce/scope/BKG-Scope-AssistantPhysicians.pdf> AAFP Backgrounder on scope of Practice--Assistant Physician

37 (8) www.inphysicians.org Indiana Physician Coalition accessed June 8, 2021

38
39
40