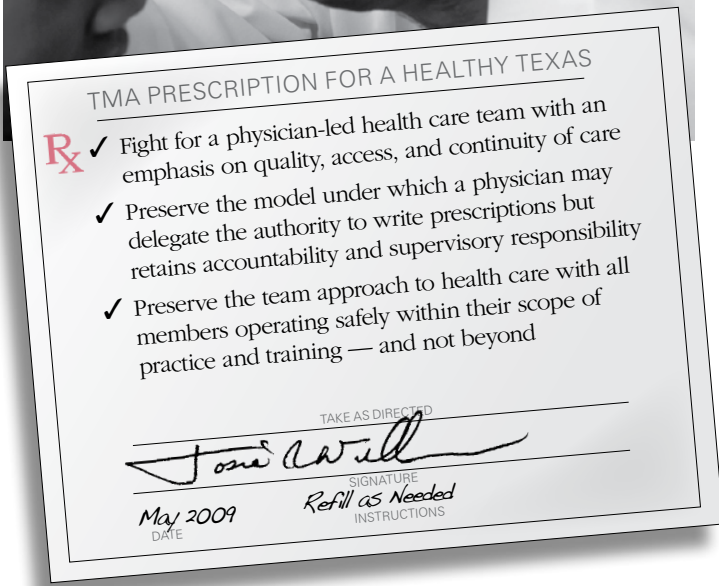


Physicians: Protect Patient Safety



By virtue of their education and training — seven or more years of medical school and residency training — physicians are the leaders of the health care team. Only physicians have the clinical expertise and training to exercise independent medical judgment for the benefit of their patients and to serve as the trusted leader of the health care team.



Physicians Caring for Texans

PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN PLATFORM

TMA Strongly Supports:

- **SB 532** by Sen. Dan Patrick (R-Houston) and **HB 2709** by Rep. Garnett Coleman (D-Houston), which ensure the Texas Medical Board has proper oversight of physicians' delegation of prescriptive authority and other responsibilities to allied health practitioners at retail health clinics. These bills have been endorsed by TMA, the Texas Academy of Family Physicians, the Texas Pediatric Society, Convenient Care Association, RediClinic, CVS/MinuteClinic, Walgreens, and Wal-Mart.

TMA Opposes:

- **HB 696** by Rep. Rob Orr (R-Burleson), which replaces Texas' carefully balanced, physician-delegated model of care with an open-ended and loosely structured "prescriptive authority agreement" between a physician and an advanced practice nurse (APN) in virtually any health care setting. There are no requirements for supervision and unclear responsibilities for the Texas Medical Board.

TMA Strongly Opposes:

- **HB 1107** by Rep. Wayne Christian (R-Center), which essentially would allow nurse practitioners to practice medicine with diagnosis, treatment, and prescriptive authority — under the direction of the Texas Board of Nursing, not the Texas Medical Board.

Medicine's Messages

- All members of the health care team apply their unique skills to patient care.
- Physicians are responsible for coordinating the various components of health care as they are delivered by the health care team. We must focus on this coordination and continuity of care as Texas searches for safe ways to meet our shortage of health care professionals.
- Nonphysician practitioners do not have the training or skill set to practice medicine. They don't know what they don't know.
- The level of care nonphysician practitioners can safely provide is limited by their education, training, and skills.
- Maintaining the integrity of the health care team under the physician's overall responsibility is good for patient care, and is efficient and sound public policy.