



# SMSNA

Sexual Medicine Society of North America, Inc.

## Integration of Advanced Practice Providers Into Clinical Practice

The SMSNA strongly supports the integration of advanced practice providers (APPs) into sexual medicine practices. Indeed, over the past several decades, APP responsibilities and delegated authorities have continued to increase among all medical specialties and hospital systems. Although the initial scope of practice for APPs was limited, it has since expanded in various regions to include independent medication prescribing, clinical visits, office procedures, imaging capture and interpretation, and even surgical procedures, among others.

The SMSNA recognizes that APPs represent an important and growing aspect of the overall healthcare team, with delegated privileges and supervision requirements ultimately determined by state legislatures and licensing bodies. The SMSNA strongly feels that any restriction or limitation placed upon providers (APP or otherwise) by an individual, payor, or group outside of recognized authorities is inappropriate and represents an overreach of jurisdiction. These restrictions are particularly unethical when they are based on financial motives alone and without any supporting clinical evidence.

The SMSNA believes that all policies relating to scope of practice and privileges should be based on peer-reviewed, published data and that any decisions to restrict autonomy, including indirect coercion through payment manipulations, can only be justified through an analysis of appropriately designed and executed studies.

The SMSNA feels that the inclusion of APPs into medical practice has resulted in several improvements to the overall quality of care administered and that future determinations as to scope of practice will remain an ongoing area of discussion and debate. In that regard, the SMSNA believes that future progress in this area should only be approached in a responsible, forward-thinking, and evidence-based manner and should not be determined based on financial incentives, political persuasion, or other improper motivations.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hans R, Savage J, Trost L. Integration of advanced practice providers into clinical practice: adapting to transformative changes of advanced practice provider autonomy. *The journal of sexual medicine*. 2025;**22**: 213-14.