

# Advanced Practice Providers in Dermatology: An Update

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## Agenda

- Role of APPs in dermatologic care
- APP utilization during pandemic
- Medicolegal considerations
- Support and development of advanced practice providers in dermatology



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## Role of APPs in dermatologic care

- Play an integral role in a collaborative, team-based model for dermatology care
- Primary focus on return patients
- Have their own panel of patients
- Refer complex patients to physician colleagues

## COVID-19 Impact

- Redeployment of APPs
- Appropriate triage of in-person visits
- High risk medication use
- Changes in workflow

## Teledermatology

- 2016: 45-60% of US healthcare institutions utilized telemedicine
  - Only 15% of dermatologists
- 2020: 96.9% utilizing telederm
  - 58% plan to continue after pandemic



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## Teledermatology

- APPs play a vital role in delivery of teledermatology services
  - At Penn State Health, 42% teledermatology services delivered by APPs
- Development of virtual care models
- Unique opportunity to reach underserved populations



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## Medicolegal Considerations

- No medico-legal risk does not exist
- Collaborating physicians have a professional responsibility to ensure that standards of care are met
- APPs should always practice within their scope
  - Competency-based standards



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## Medicolegal Considerations

- Cultivating professional relationships between attending physicians and APPs improves trust
- Physician co-signature
  - Required for Physician Assistants
  - Not required for Nurse Practitioners



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## Roadmap for APP Success

- Team-based delivery of care
- Set reasonable expectations
- Increasing number of APP educational opportunities



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## Dermatology APP Fellowship

- 1 year post-graduate training program
- Accepts PAs and NPs
- General dermatology curriculum
  - Didactic and clinical experiences
  - APP-led lectures
  - QI project



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## Dermatology APP Fellowship

- Elective weeks incorporated
- HS Clinic with Dr. Kirby
- Evaluation methods:
  - New innovations
  - Competency exam

## Take Home Points

- APPs are valuable members of the health care team
- APPs have played a significant role in delivery of teledermatology
- Team-based care improves patient outcomes
- APPs continue to develop their roles

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## Thank you!



## Legislation

- SB25- introduced by Senator Bartolotta
  - Would require NPs to practice for 3 years and 3600 hours under collaborative agreement with 2 MDs
  - After the above criteria area met, full practice authority, and would not be mandated to maintain collaborative MD agreement
  - 3 years and 3600hrs represents the longest transition period of any state in the country
  - Passed out of senate committee- awaiting full senate vote

## Split-Shared Billing

- In order to report the service under the physician's NPI number under the shared/split concept, the physician must meet multiple requirements:
  - • Physician must provide a face-to-face encounter with the patient
  - • Physician must document at least one element of the history, exam, and/or MDM component of the E/M service
  - • Physician must legibly sign the medical record to justify involvement in the patient care

## Split-Shared Billing

- **Examples**  
**that WOULD satisfy shared/split billing:**
- --"I have personally performed a face to face diagnostic evaluation on this patient. My findings are as follows: ...Patient presents with abscess, onset 3 days ago. Has tried a warm compress; hot shower for relief. Exam shows right gluteal abscess 3cm warm tender and fluctuant. Incision and drainage not indicated, started on MRSA antibiotic coverage." Signed by treating physician