

## Public comment: PA practice in Nevada

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Dear Nevada Patient Protection Commission,

Intermountain Health is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve, to be a model health system and help patients live the healthiest lives possible. We're writing to you today, to show our support for proposing that restrictions, that prevent Physician Assistants from practicing independently in Nevada, be lifted. Intermountain Health has supported similar efforts in Utah and Idaho.

For health systems like ours, the mandated supervision requirements for fully-trained, experienced PAs, is not only considered waste but also requires expensive investment in supervising physician time, often for the sole purpose of meeting legal requirements. This time could be better spent in patient care. As a health system, we believe that PAs are highly trained and educated and are instrumental in providing increased access to patient care, especially here in our Utah rural communities through telehealth. Our PAs and physicians collaborate equally and often. On Connect Care urgent care, the practice which I am the operations manager for, we only hire APPs and have a team of PAs and NPs. These restrictions reduce the pool of applicants that I am able to hire from. Connect Care has been able to achieve national recognition for being a leader in delivering quality care, maintaining a low antibiotic prescribing rate while still achieving high patient satisfaction scores. By hiring PAs and NPs, Connect Care is able to offer access 24/7/365 for urgent conditions with a very low wait time and at an affordable cost. The same success could be achieved in other geographies such as Nevada if there constraints were removed. Proposing these changes would encourage more PAs to remain in practice in Nevada thus improving access, decreasing patient wait-times and promoting collaboration with physician partners to care for the most complex patients.

The healthcare provider shortage is a challenging national issue that was only catalyzed by the pandemic. In a post-pandemic world, we believe that it is imperative to consider avenues of how to better allow advanced practice providers to practice and serve the communities they live in.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Cheryl Ledward, MBA, MTech**

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