

Resolution 23-314
Clarifying and Defining the Roles of Healthcare Providers in Spanish
 FMA Medical Student Section

1 Whereas, Scope of practice should be specifically defined, keeping allied health professionals’
 2 responsibilities in line with their training and respective titles; and
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 4 Whereas, In March of 2020 Florida passed HB 607 allowing advanced practice nurses to practice without
 5 the supervision of either an allopathic or osteopathic physician¹; and
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 7 Whereas, The change of name from physician ‘assistant’ to ‘associate’ creates confusion in health
 8 provider role and implicates autonomous practice²; and
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 10 Whereas, A survey by the American Medical Association (AMA) showed that 25% of patients incorrectly
 11 believe the physician assistant is the physician²; and
 12
 13 Whereas, The AMA survey presented that 45% of patients either had difficulty identifying who was a
 14 licensed physician or did not know who the licensed physician was at all²; and
 15
 16 Whereas, In Florida, the Hispanic population makes up just over one quarter (26.8%) of the total
 17 population³; and
 18
 19 Whereas, Translation of healthcare titles from English to Spanish can lead to misconceptions regarding
 20 who is providing their care and may limit Spanish speaking patients’ ability to properly identify the
 21 physician; and
 22
 23 Whereas, In 2023 Florida passed HB 583 Health Care Practitioner Titles and Designations, which
 24 prohibits certain licensed healthcare practitioners from using specified names or titles unless that
 25 practitioner has the requisite training and certifications⁴; and
 26
 27 Whereas, Most Latin American countries do not have advanced practice nurses (APRNs) or physician
 28 assistants (PAs) in their healthcare system, and there is no formal word or term in Spanish to define an
 29 APRN or PA; and
 30
 31 Whereas, Due to the lack of appropriate terminology in Spanish, APRNs and PAs are often introduced
 32 and identified as “el doctor” or “la doctora”;
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 34 RESOLVED, That our Florida Medical Association supports legislation that clearly delineates each
 35 healthcare worker’s title in Spanish. Suggested language includes; NPs to be termed “Enfermero/a
 36 Practicante/a” and PAs to be termed “Asistente medico”.
 37

Fiscal Note:

Description	Amount	Budget Narrative
100 staff hours	\$17,000	Can be accomplished with current staff
Total	\$17,000	\$0 added to the operating budget

Fiscal notes are an estimate of the cost to implement a given Resolution. All Resolutions that are adopted by the House of Delegates will be referred to the FMA Committee on Finance and Appropriations for fiscal consideration.

Reference Committee: III – Legislation & Miscellaneous

38 References

- 39 1. Florida Legislature. Section 464.0123, Florida Statutes. Retrieved from
40 [http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0464/Sections/0464.0123.html)
41 [=&URL=0400-0499/0464/Sections/0464.0123.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0464/Sections/0464.0123.html)
- 42 2. American Medical Association. PA rebrand to physician associates will deepen patient
43 confusion. Retrieved from [https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/scope-](https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/scope-practice/pa-rebrand-physician-associates-will-deepen-patient-confusion?gclid=CjwKCAjw-sqKBhBjEiwAVaQ9a4q0pv8GqprmXwlqMIMve4hmYJ8KGZApvjINryO1BEE8VW8ZfCpo2hoCaDMQAvD_BwE)
44 [practice/pa-rebrand-physician-associates-will-deepen-patient-](https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/scope-practice/pa-rebrand-physician-associates-will-deepen-patient-confusion?gclid=CjwKCAjw-sqKBhBjEiwAVaQ9a4q0pv8GqprmXwlqMIMve4hmYJ8KGZApvjINryO1BEE8VW8ZfCpo2hoCaDMQAvD_BwE)
45 [confusion?gclid=CjwKCAjw-](https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/scope-practice/pa-rebrand-physician-associates-will-deepen-patient-confusion?gclid=CjwKCAjw-sqKBhBjEiwAVaQ9a4q0pv8GqprmXwlqMIMve4hmYJ8KGZApvjINryO1BEE8VW8ZfCpo2hoCaDMQAvD_BwE)
46 [sqKBhBjEiwAVaQ9a4q0pv8GqprmXwlqMIMve4hmYJ8KGZApvjINryO1BEE8VW8Z](https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/scope-practice/pa-rebrand-physician-associates-will-deepen-patient-confusion?gclid=CjwKCAjw-sqKBhBjEiwAVaQ9a4q0pv8GqprmXwlqMIMve4hmYJ8KGZApvjINryO1BEE8VW8ZfCpo2hoCaDMQAvD_BwE)
47 [fCpo2hoCaDMQAvD_BwE](https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/scope-practice/pa-rebrand-physician-associates-will-deepen-patient-confusion?gclid=CjwKCAjw-sqKBhBjEiwAVaQ9a4q0pv8GqprmXwlqMIMve4hmYJ8KGZApvjINryO1BEE8VW8ZfCpo2hoCaDMQAvD_BwE)
- 48 3. U.S. Census Bureau. QuickFacts: Florida. Retrieved from
49 <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/FL/RHI725221>
- 50 4. Florida Senate. (2023). Senate Bill 583. Retrieved from
51 <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/583/ByVersion>