

TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Protect Patient Safety



March 2015

TMA's Healthy Vision 2020 Agenda

- Stop any efforts to expand scope of practice beyond that safely permitted by nonphysician practitioners' education, training, and skills.
- Enact only those changes to scope-of-practice laws that are based on objective educational standards, improve patient care services, protect patient safety, preserve the physician-led medical home, are consistent with team care, and have appropriate regulatory oversight by the Texas Medical Board.



Physicians Caring for Texans

Patient and Physician Platform

TMA Opposes

- HB 1885 by Rep. Cecil Bell Jr. (R-Magnolia) and SB 751 by Sen. José Rodríguez (D-El Paso) — give advanced practice registered nurses independent prescriptive authority AND explicit authority to make a medical diagnosis.
- HB 1263 by Rep. Richard Raymond (D-Laredo) — gives physical therapists direct access to patients without a referral and without first seeking a diagnosis warranting the care.
- HB 1413 by Rep. Craig Goldman (R-Fort Worth) — expands scope of therapeutic optometry and gives optometrists the authority to perform some eye surgery and administer and prescribe Schedule II drugs.
- SB 577 by Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) and HB 1420 by Rep. J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville) — expand scope of therapeutic optometry, allowing optometrists to administer or prescribe Schedule II drugs.
- SB 480 by Senator Perry — lowers the age of a child to whom a pharmacist could administer a childhood vaccination from 14 years old to 7, and with no requirement the pharmacist participate in Medicaid.
- HB 126 by Rep. Allen Fletcher (R-Cypress) — allows chiropractors to give patients access to handicap parking placards.
- HB 1174 by Representative Fletcher — allows chiropractors to conduct physicals for school bus drivers.
- HB 1231 by Representative Fletcher — allows chiropractors to examine student athletes for concussions.

Medicine's Message

- A physician-led team approach to care, with each member of the health care team providing care based on his or her education and training, is key to ensuring that patients receive high-quality care. Maintaining the integrity of the health care team, under the physician's overall direction, is good for patient care.
- Physicians embrace their role as both providers and supervisors of care, and understand the responsibility and accountability they bear for properly delegated medical acts.
- Diagnosis is not a synonym for evaluation, analysis, or assessment. Diagnosis in this context means “medical diagnosis,” and that is the practice of medicine. Only physicians are trained to provide medical diagnosis. It's central to patient care.



Healthy Vision 2020

For more information, call TMA at (512) 370-1300.