



Coalition for Patients' Rights™ Fact Sheet

The Coalition for Patients' Rights™ was formed in 2006 to ensure that the growing needs of the American healthcare system can be met and that patients have access to quality healthcare professionals of their choice. The Coalition believes that patients are best served when they have access to a team of healthcare professionals who work together to ensure overall health and wellness.

About the Coalition for Patients' Rights

- The Coalition for Patients' Rights is a national coalition of more than 35 organizations that represents more than three million licensed and/or certified healthcare professionals committed to ensuring comprehensive healthcare choices for all patients.
 - The Coalition is comprised of a diverse array of healthcare professionals.
 - Coalition members include optometrists, chiropractors, psychologists, registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses (including certified registered nurse anesthetists, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists and certified nurse midwives), therapists, naturopathic physicians and practitioners of Oriental medicine.
 - The Coalition advocates for the legally authorized rights of its members to practice to the full extent of their abilities, education, qualifications and legal authority.

Importance of Patients' Rights to Access and Choice

- The Coalition advocates for patients, protecting their right to access care from a broad spectrum of healthcare professionals. The Coalition believes that:
 - Patients should be able to choose the type of provider that best suits their individual healthcare and wellness needs.
 - Access to a range of healthcare options ensures that patients are able to receive the right care at the right time.
 - Patients should have access to an array of safe, high-quality and cost-effective healthcare professionals.

The Coalition for Patients' Rights Position on Limiting Scope of Practice

- There is a divisive movement to restrict the valuable services provided by some healthcare professionals, which will limit patient access to safe, high-quality and cost-effective healthcare.
 - The Coalition believes that limiting the ability of healthcare professionals to practice and provide appropriate care places an enormous and unnecessary burden on the American healthcare system.

- There is a tremendous need to combat the growing demands on the American healthcare system – including an aging population, healthcare provider shortages, spiraling costs and more than 45 million uninsured Americans.
- The Coalition believes that it is inappropriate for organizations representing doctors of medicine and osteopathy (MDs and DOs) to advise legislators – as well as consumers, regulators, policy makers or payers – regarding the scope of practice of other licensed healthcare professionals whose practices are authorized by law.
- The Coalition believes that now is the time for all healthcare professionals to work together, not against one another, to advance the health and well-being of patients.

For more information about the Coalition, patients' rights and the role that all healthcare professionals play in addressing America's healthcare needs, visit www.patientsrightscoalition.org.