



**POSITION STATEMENT
OF MONTANA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
ON
INDEPENDENT PRACTICE
Adopted March 10, 2018**

The Montana Medical Association believes that Physician Assistants have become an increasingly important part of Montana's healthcare delivery team. Our membership is grateful for the dedication, hard work, and professionalism which Physician Assistants contribute to the care of Montana's patients.

Due to the Physician Assistants' abbreviated academic studies, limited practical exposure (supervised practice or formal internship), an individual Physician Assistant's competency and safety is not guaranteed at the time certification is granted. Therefore, the Montana Medical Association does not believe it is in the public's best interest to license, by statute, all certified Physician's Assistants to practice medicine independently.

We support regulation giving Physicians and Physicians Assistants flexibility to determine the timing and nature of their supervision agreement. We would consider exploring a pathway to limited independent practice following an extended preceptorship. We believe Physicians and Physicians Assistants working together will develop relationships which maximize both patient safety and a Physician Assistant's full professional potential.