

# WORKING WITH ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS

## Advanced Practice Providers— Scope of Practice

- “Advanced practice provider” refers to:
  - Physician assistants (PAs)
  - Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)
    - Includes: nurse practitioners (NPs), clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists

For simplicity, this document will refer to NPs rather than APRNs, as NPs are the most common APRN in neurology.

- In some states, APPs are required to have physician involvement for prescriptive authority. This could include required written agreements. Understand your state’s specific regulations related to scope of practice for APPs (NPs: <https://www.aanp.org/advocacy/state/state-practice-environment> and PAs: <https://www.aapa.org/advocacy-central/state-advocacy/state-laws-and-regulations/>)
  - PA/physician relationships are referred to as “supervisory.” The physician is the PA’s “supervising physician.”
  - NP/physician relationships are referred to as “collaborative.” The physician is the APRN’s “collaborative physician.”
- NPs may work under their own license, within their own scope of practice. They may only accept those assignments that consider patient safety and that are commensurate with their own educational preparation, experience, knowledge, and physical and emotional ability.
- As an NP, scope of practice is only dictated by formal training, board certification, and licensure, and is not impacted by experience garnered as a registered nurse (RN). Experiences gained as an RN are not equivalent to and cannot replace formal education in the advanced

practice role and population focus.

- Each NP is responsible for practicing within the role and population focus, as licensed by the board and appropriate to his/her educational preparation.
- A PA shall provide medical services (within his/her education, training, and experience) that are delegated by the supervising physician.
- NPs or PAs are responsible for recognizing when they are in danger of exceeding their personal and professional scope of practice.

## Physician and Advanced Practice Provider Relationship

- Regular face-to-face meetings between the supervising or collaborating physician and the APP are required in some states. We recommend *monthly face-to-face meetings* until the third anniversary, and quarterly meetings thereafter. Face-to-face meetings should be part of the quality assurance and improvement plan.
- In many states, physicians need to review charts and cases. This requirement varies state to state, so be sure to check with your state boards of medicine and nursing.

## Termination of Relationship

- The addition of a new supervising or collaborating physician does not terminate any other supervision or collaboration that is currently in place.
- Please check with your state boards of medicine and nursing to understand the requirements for termination.

