May 8, 2024

Is Your 'Doctor' a Real Doctor?

A few years ago, my doctor was fully booked, so the clinic said I could see the other doctor. I was puzzled because it was a solo practice. The clerk then admitted that he was a physician assistant but said he was "just like a doctor." I told her that's not true. PAs provide valuable services, but they don't have half the training of a doctor.

The organizations representing non-physicians, like PAs, have worked for years to get state legislatures to enact laws that treat physicians and non-physicians as interchangeable. In April 2024, Oregon changed the title of 'physician assistant' to 'physician associate,' further clouding the issue. Patients be aware. Know if you've got a physician or a non-physician in the exam room.

"Oregon Physician Assistants Get Name Change," Jennifer Nelson, Medscape, April 26, 2024: https://bit.ly/4a1GQRI

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President and Co-founder Citizens' Council for Health Freedom.

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