

ON AIR



# Health Freedom Minute

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## PA's are Not Medical Doctors

Maine is the second state, after Oregon, to change the “physician assistant” title to “physician associate”. Both are called PAs.

The title switch may cause patients to wrongly believe they are seeing a physician. 17% of patients already believe PAs are doctors and some clinic staff refer to PAs as doctors.

Although the PA association claims the change is meant to clarify PAs do more than “assist” physicians, Dr. Susan Bailey, past president of the American Medical Association, says the change is “an attempt to advance [the PAs] pursuit toward independent practice,” which means practicing with no physician supervision. Doctors and PAs each have a purpose, but PAs are not medical doctors.

**“2<sup>nd</sup> State adopts ‘physician associate’ title,”** Mackenzie Bean, Becker’s Clinical Leadership, June 17, 2025:

[https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/quality/patient-safety-outcomes/2nd-state-adopts-physician-associate-title/?origin=BHRE&utm\\_source=BHRE&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=newsletter&oly\\_enc\\_id=8286C9282356A1S](https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/quality/patient-safety-outcomes/2nd-state-adopts-physician-associate-title/?origin=BHRE&utm_source=BHRE&utm_medium=email&utm_content=newsletter&oly_enc_id=8286C9282356A1S)

**“PA rebrand as ‘physician associates’ will deepen patient confusion,”** Kevin B. O’Reilly, AMA, June 16, 2021: <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/scope-practice/pa-rebrand-physician-associates-will-deepen-patient-confusion>

Presented daily by Twila Brase, President and Co-founder  
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