



## What is the Coalition for Patients' Rights?

The Coalition for Patients' Rights® works to ensure that the American healthcare system's growing and increasingly diverse needs are met. The Coalition was formed in 2006 and consists of more than 35 organizations representing a variety of licensed healthcare professionals.

The Coalition's membership represents a diverse array of healthcare professionals that patients across the country rely upon, including advanced practice and registered nurses, audiologists, chiropractors, foot and ankle surgeons, naturopathic doctors, occupational therapists, physical therapists and psychologists.

---

## What does the Coalition for Patients' Rights believe?

- Every patient has the right to access the healthcare professionals of their choice.
- All healthcare professionals have the right to practice to the full extent of their abilities, education, qualifications and licensure.

***The Coalition is dedicated to preserving patients' choice of healthcare providers.***

---

## Organized campaign to limit patients' rights

Currently, there is a **divisive movement** to restrict access to the valuable services provided by many healthcare professionals.

***Scope of practice battles threaten patient access to safe, high-quality and cost-effective healthcare.***

Several medical groups have been working to restrict patients' access to services provided by healthcare professionals who are not doctors of medicine (MDs) or osteopathy (DOs).

The Scope of Practice Partnership (SOPP), an alliance of medical and osteopathic physician organizations, including the American Medical Association (AMA), aims to limit the ability of other healthcare professionals to offer services that they are educated, licensed and/or certified to provide.

## What's at stake?

As healthcare reform is implemented and there is an influx of newly insured patients, experts have expressed growing concern that there will not be enough healthcare professionals to meet the demand. Primary care providers already are in short supply, and the shortage is likely to grow worse.

If the needs of patients are to be successfully met, they must have access to a full range of healthcare professionals. In doing so, three key objectives can be addressed:

- Provide the best possible health and wellness outcomes for patients
- Provide needed care to patients, including those in rural and underserved areas
- Provide high-quality and cost-effective care

---

## Why CPR?

The demands on our healthcare system are simply too great for healthcare professionals to continue fighting the same old "turf wars" over authority to practice. All healthcare providers must work together to the full extent of their education and training to meet the growing needs and ensure best outcomes for all.



*To learn more about preserving access to healthcare providers, download the coalition's informational toolkit at: [www.patientsrightscoalition.org/Patient-Resources.aspx](http://www.patientsrightscoalition.org/Patient-Resources.aspx).*

## The Coalition's National Members

- American Academy of Chiropractic Physicians (AACP)
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
- American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM)
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN-Colleges)
- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN-Critical Care)
- American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP)
- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)
- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)
- American Chiropractic Association (ACA)
- American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS)
- American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)
- American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP)
- American Congress of Electroneuromyography (ACE)
- American Nurses Association (ANA)
- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
- American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
- American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA)
- American Psychological Association Practice Organization (APAPO)
- American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Association of Nurses In AIDS Care (ANAC)
- Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN)
- Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN)
- Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP)
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
- Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)
- Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA)
- Integrated Healthcare Policy Consortium (IHPC)
- National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS)
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
- National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN)
- National League for Nursing (NLN)
- National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF)
- Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)

## The Coalition's State Affiliates

- Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Massachusetts Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Oklahoma Nurses Association