



Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants
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Senate Bill 1362-AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS UNDER THE MEDICAID PROGRAM

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants supports Senate Bill 1362, which allows for reimbursement of physician assistant services through the Medicaid program.

Physician Assistants (PA) work with physicians as dependent practitioners with physicians to provide the best possible care for patients in every practice setting. The PA's rigorous medical education, versatility, and commitment to quality patient care can help practices function more efficiently, enhance continuity of care to patients, and provide increased *access to care*.

Medical and surgical services delivered by physician assistants are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, and most private payers in most states. However, in the State of Connecticut, PAs are not enrolled providers in the Medicaid program. This act would allow for enrollment of PAs. Enrollment would enable practices to utilize physician assistants in the care of Medicaid patients, receive reimbursement for that care, and increase access to healthcare in this underserved population.

This bill would set reimbursement at 90% of the physician rate.

As a point of clarification, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid's policy regarding payment for services provided by a PA requires that "Payment for services of a PA may be made only to the actual qualified employer of the PA..." This payment policy is also supported by the AMA.

Because the language of the bill, as written, implies that reimbursement would go directly to the physician assistant, ConnAPA respectfully requests that the Committee consider amending this bill to ensure that "*the employer* of a licensed physician assistant is able to bill the Department of Social Services directly for services provided, utilizing the Physician Assistant's National Practitioner Identifier (NPI)...". The physician assistant's unique provider number (NPI) will indicate that the care was provided by a PA, but the payment will be sent to the PA's employer, as required by Federal law.

Thank you for your consideration of ConnAPA's views on this bill. We look forward to being able to provide increased access to care to Connecticut's Medicaid population.