

ATPPS Position Statement on Specialization

Athletic Trainers in Physician Practice Society's (ATPPS) mission is to be the leading advocate for athletic trainers in physician practice, providing education and resources to improve patient care and experience. The National Academy of Medicine (NAM) defines quality as "the degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge".

Medical education follows a path of specialization through depth of knowledge within specialties of the profession. Recognition of healthcare specialists is granted through rigorous post professional education/training and passing of a certification exam. Specialization has been shown to decrease diagnostic errors and medical costs for patients, as well as improve patient outcomes and safety (*National Academy of Science, Improving Diagnosis in Healthcare* 2015).

ATPPS supports specialization throughout all healthcare professions. ATPPS feels following the medical model of specialization is equally valuable for athletic trainers as we continue to provide quality patient care along best practices throughout the profession.