

SUBJECT: VITAL NATURE OF BOARD-CERTIFIED PHYSICIANS IN AEROSPACE MEDICINE

SUBMITTED BY: American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine

REFERRED TO: Committee on Educational Affairs

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1 WHEREAS, Aerospace Medicine is an internationally recognized, unique specialty of medicine  
2 with advanced education requirements supporting all domains of aviation and space flight; and

3 WHEREAS, in over a century of support, the Aerospace Medicine Team, led by Aerospace  
4 Medicine physicians, has advanced the art and science of every human flight endeavor, resulting  
5 in improved safety, reduced mishaps, and enhanced mission accomplishment;

6 WHEREAS, Aerospace Medicine physicians are required to maintain their professional  
7 knowledge and standing with state medical licensure, current specialty board certifications,  
8 continuing medical education activities, and ongoing privileging; and have extensive knowledge,  
9 skills, and professional self-regulation in the full and total range of the practice of Aerospace  
10 Medicine; and

11 WHEREAS, in an effort to reduce costs, outsource work, and pass-on legal liability, there has  
12 been a trend in managed medical care, U.S. commercial airlines and in the U.S. governmental  
13 departments to replace Aerospace Medicine physicians with non-aerospace medicine mid-level  
14 providers (protocol driven, lack of specialty training/experience), resulting in significantly  
15 increased risk and reduced safety margins; and

16 WHEREAS, 193 state parties are signatories to the Convention on International Civil Aviation  
17 (“Chicago Convention”), which obliges the governments to reciprocally implement certain  
18 international regulatory standards, including physician responsibility pertaining to medical  
19 fitness of license holders, prevention of ill health and management of public health events in  
20 aviation, now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, that world legislative, regulatory and rule-making bodies codify the Aerospace  
22 Medicine specialty, practitioners and the unique leadership roles of Aerospace Medicine  
23 physicians; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, that the AOA recognizes the unique contributions and advanced qualifications of  
25 Aerospace Medicine professionals; and specifically opposes any and all efforts to remove,  
26 reduce or replace Aerospace Medicine physician leadership in civilian, corporate or government  
27 Aerospace Medicine programs and aircrew healthcare support teams; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, that the AOA advocates against ~~other~~ FURTHER Aerospace medicine mid-level  
29 provider scope of practice expansions that threaten the safety, health, and wellbeing of aircrew,  
30 patients, support personnel and the flying public.

Background Information: Provided by AOA Staff

**Current AOA Policy:**

H-623 A/18 Non-Physician Clinicians is similar in that it addresses the appropriate scope of practice for non-physician clinicians. It opposes any legislation or regulations which would authorize the independent practice of medicine by an individual who has not completed the state's requirements for physician licensure.

**Prior HOD action on similar or same topic:**

H-623 A/18 Non-Physician Clinicians policy approved in 2018

FISCAL IMPACT: \$0

ACTION TAKEN ADOPTED AS AMENDED

DATE JULY 17, 2021