

Aerospace Medical Association

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April 8, 2022

American Board of Preventive Medicine
Dr. Wendy Braund, Chairperson
111 W. Jackson Blvd, #1340
Chicago, IL 60604

SUBJECT: Vital Nature of Board-Certified Physicians in Aerospace Medicine

Dear Dr. Braund,

On June 8 2021, the membership of the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA) passed a resolution to highlight the continued need for physician leadership on clinical teams. As physicians represent the highest level of training and certification in any specialty, their replacement by mid-level providers lacking this level of expertise is inappropriate. AsMA will continue to advocate against any non-physician expansion of practice that reduces a physician's role in leading medical care.

The background for the resolution is as follows:

- Aerospace Medicine is an internationally recognized, unique specialty of medicine with advanced education requirements supporting all domains of aviation and space flight.
- In over a century of support, the Aerospace Medicine Team, led by Aerospace Medicine physicians have advanced the art and science of every human flight endeavor, resulting in improved safety, reduced mishaps, and enhanced mission accomplishment.
- Aerospace Medicine physicians are required to maintain their professional knowledge and standing with State medical licensure, current Specialty Board certifications, continuing medical education activities, and ongoing privileging; and have extensive knowledge, skills, and professional self-regulation in the full and total range of the practice of Aerospace Medicine.
- In an effort to reduce costs, outsource work, and pass-on legal liability, there has been a trend in Managed Medical Care, US commercial airlines and in the US Governmental Departments to replace Aerospace Medicine physicians with non-aerospace medicine mid-level providers (protocol driven, lack of specialty training / experience), resulting in significantly increased risk and reduced safety margins.
- 193 state parties are signatories to the Convention on International Civil Aviation ("Chicago Convention"), which obliges the governments to reciprocally implement certain international regulatory standards, including physician responsibility pertaining to medical fitness of license holders, prevention of ill health and management of public health events in aviation.

The AsMA resolution states:

- World legislative, regulatory and rule-making bodies codify Aerospace Medicine specialty practitioners and the unique leadership roles of Aerospace Medicine physicians.
- AsMA recognizes the unique contributions and advanced qualifications of Aerospace Medicine professionals; and specifically opposes all efforts to remove, reduce or replace Aerospace Medicine physician leadership in civilian, corporate or government Aerospace Medicine programs and aircrew healthcare support teams.
- AsMA advocates against other mid-level provider scope of practice expansions that threaten the safety, health, and wellbeing of aircrew, patients, support personnel and the flying public.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this important effort to enhance the safety of global Aerospace Medicine operations. Please feel free to contact the Aerospace Medical Association at (703) 739-2240 x105 if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey C. Sventek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey C. Sventek, MS, CAsP, AsMA, FRAeS
Executive Director