

GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE ON EVALUATING AND SIMPLIFYING PHYSICIAN OVERSIGHT OF PAs AND APRNs

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Georgia Association of Physician Assistants

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WHAT IS A PA?

AT A GLANCE

PA profession
established in

1967



131,000+

PA's in the U.S.

NCCPA, 2018

PA's have more than

400
MILLION



patient interactions
per year

*2018 AAPA Salary Survey,
All data based on clinically practicing PA's in the U.S.*

WHAT CAN PAs DO?



Manage patients



Prescribe medication



Perform medical procedures



Order and interpret tests



Assist in surgery



Counsel on preventive care

HOW ARE PAs EDUCATED?



Educated at
**MASTER'S
DEGREE** level



Programs are
27 MONTHS or **3**
ACADEMIC YEARS
(Bachelor's degree is required for acceptance)



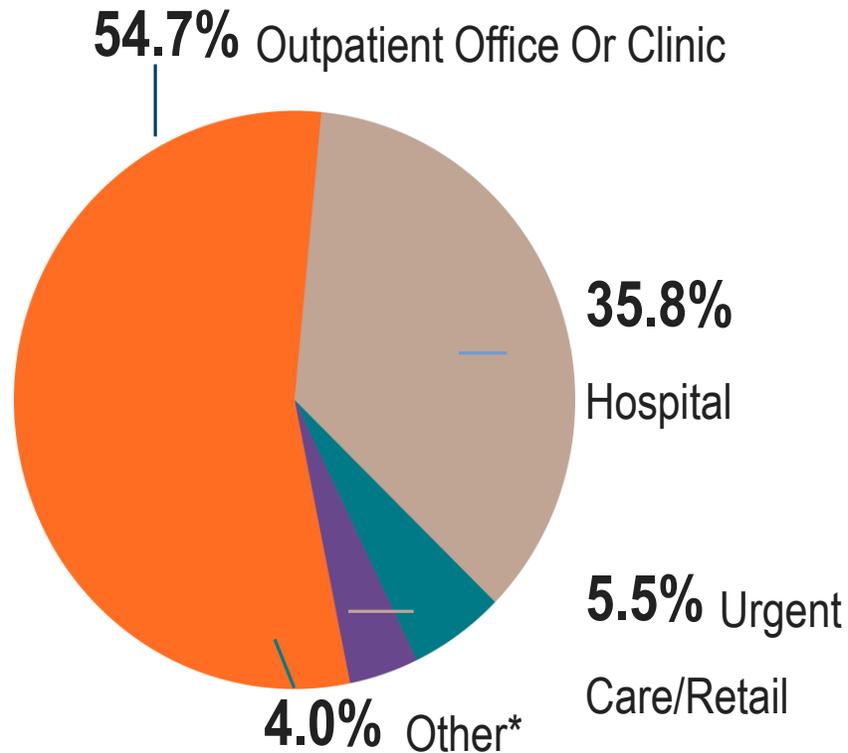
2,000 hours
of clinical rotation



238 PA Programs
in the U.S.
ARC-PA, 2019

WHERE DO PAs WORK?

PAs practice in every work setting

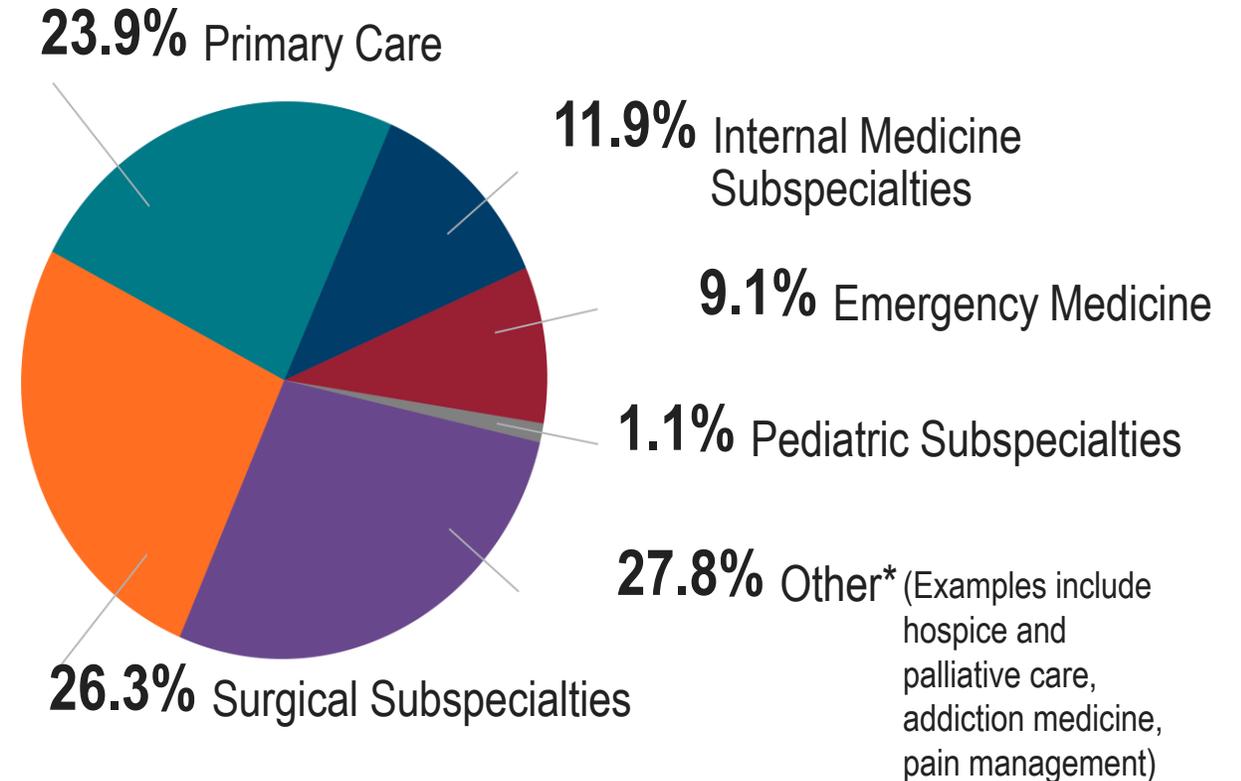


2018 AAPA Salary Survey

All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

*Other refers to a variety of work settings including but not limited to schools/universities, rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes and correctional facilities.

PAs practice medicines in all specialties



2018 AAPA Salary Survey

All data based on clinically practicing PAs in the U.S.

*Other refers to a variety of healthcare settings including but not limited to psychiatry, hospice and palliative care, obstetrics and gynecology, addiction medicine, pain management, public health and dermatology.

IS THERE A HIGH DEMAND FOR PAs?

Demand for PAs
has increased

300%

from
2011 to 2014.

*Merrit Hawkins

PA Employment will
increase by

30%

between
2014 and 2024.

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Multiple job offers
are received by

76%

of PAs upon
graduation.

*NCCPA 2015 Profile of PAs

HOW MUCH DO PAs MAKE?

\$105,000

MEDIAN BASE SALARY FROM PRIMARY EMPLOYER

*Data provided by the AAPA 2018 Salary Survey

\$105,000

HISTORY OF GEORGIA PA ACT

- Original Georgia PA Act (1972)
- While containing the elements of a licensure bill, PAs were considered “certified”
- Envisioned extensive supervision with basic and detailed (long) job descriptions
- Anticipated the regulation of about 200 PAs
- First attempted major legislative change (allow remote site practice) was circa 1988
- Was not comprehensively updated until 2009



PIECEMEAL AMENDMENTS (Before 2009)

- Delegation of Prescriptive Authority: 1995
- “Licensing” of PAs (was “Certified”): 1997
- Authorization for DEA Numbers: 1999
- Increase in PA to Physician Ratio: 2001-2002
- Authorization of the “Alternative Supervising Physician”: 2002
- Redefining the Nature of PA Job Description (Making it More General): 2004
- Request, Sign for Pharmaceutical Samples: 2004
- PA Assistance for Disaster Relief: 2006



Modernizing PA Laws and Regulations

AAPA's Six Key Elements of a Modern PA Practice Act

Full prescriptive authority

Adaptable collaboration requirements

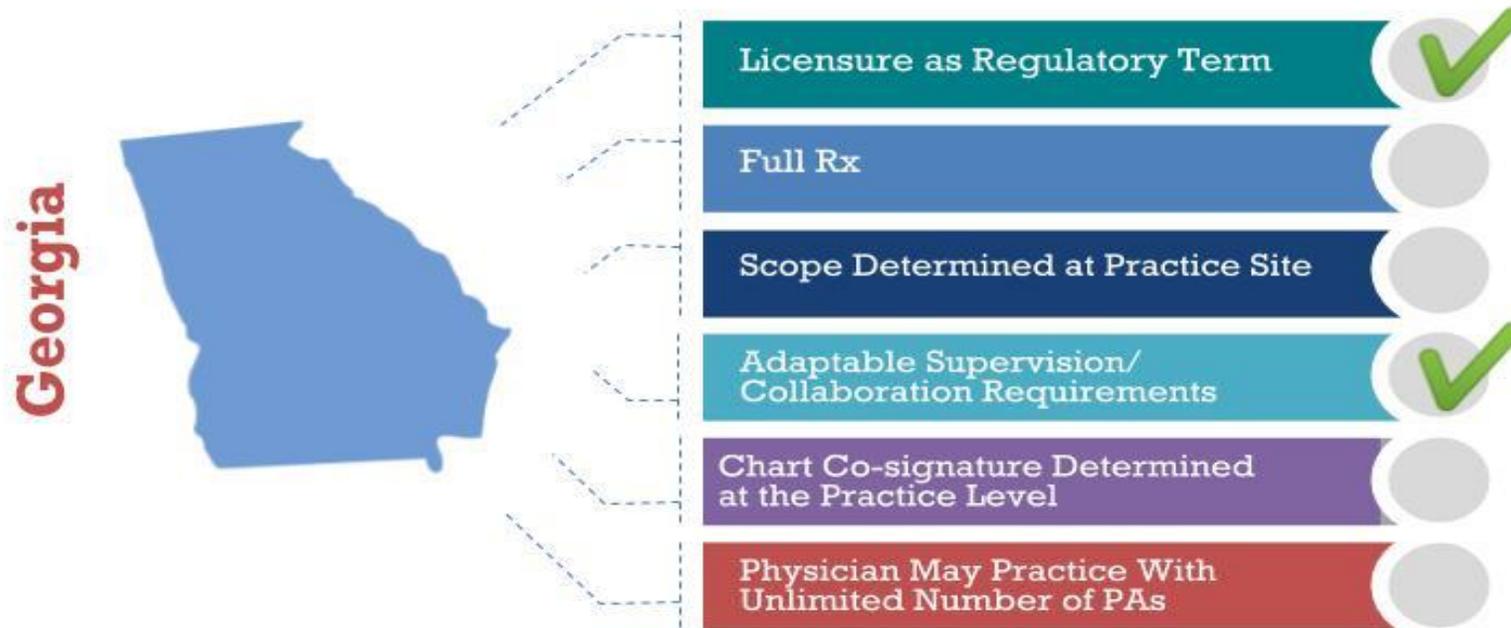
"Licensure" as the regulatory term

Number of PAs a physician may practice with
determined at the practice level

Scope of practice determined at the practice level

Cosignature requirements determined at the practice level

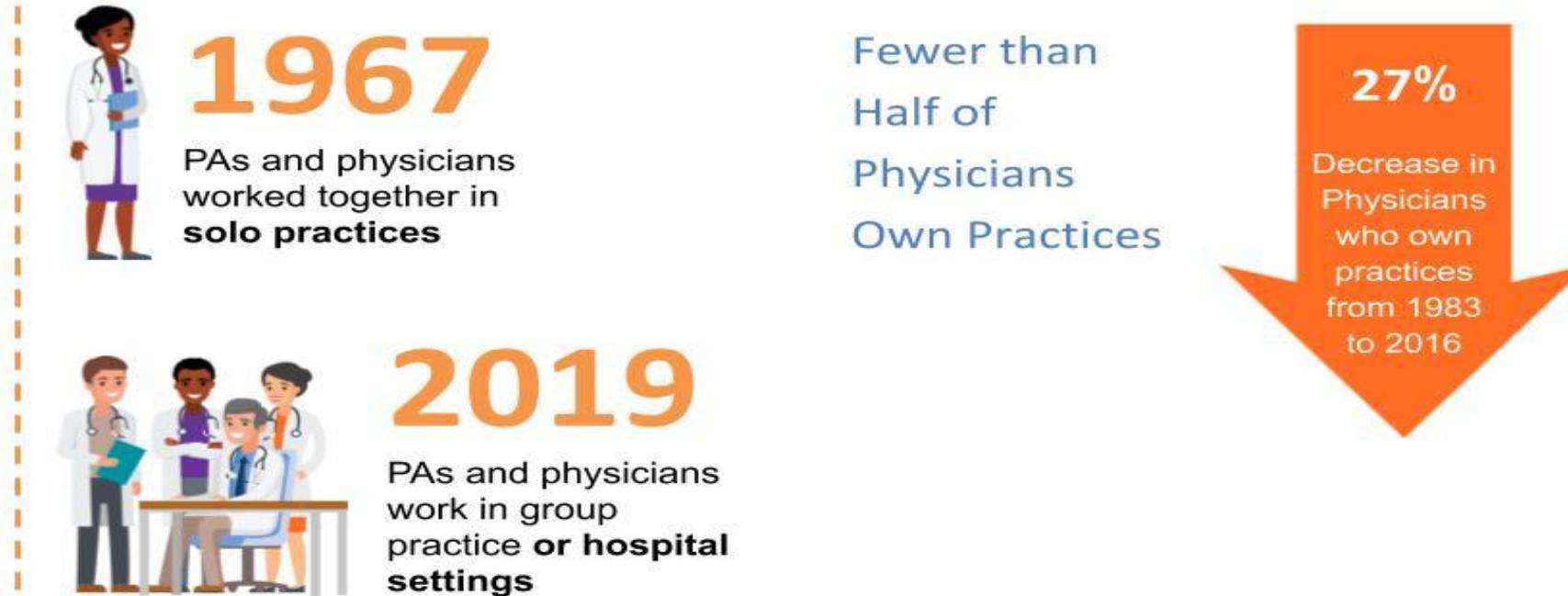
6 Key Elements in State PA Law



SIX ELEMENTS OF A MODERN PA ACT: Georgia/National Comparison

<u>Element</u>	<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Total States</u>
Licensure as a Regulatory Term	Yes	50
Full Prescriptive Authority (including Schedule II Drugs)	No	43 (Note: including every neighbor state) and D.C.
PA Scope of Practice at Practice Site	No	37 and D.C.
Adaptable Supervision Requirements (Distance, Physician Location)	Yes	30
Chart Co-Signature Requirements at Practice Level	No	33 and D.C.
No Ratio Restriction	No	14 (Note: 26 other states have ratios less restrictive than Georgia)

What's Driving the Need for Change?



AREAS IN GEORGIA PA LAW TO EXAMINE

- Physician chart review of patients receiving a prescription from a PA
- Supervisory ratios
 - Number of PAs a physician can supervise at one time
 - Number of PAs with job description
 - Elimination of ratios
- Prescriptive authority
 - All Schedule II drugs
 - Hydrocodones



AREAS IN GEORGIA PA LAW TO EXAMINE (Continued)

- Sites where PAs can practice (language on places where physician “regularly sees patient” needs to be eliminated)
- Arcane language in PA Act
- PA “licensed to” supervising physician
- Notification to patient of the right to see a physician prior to issuance of an prescription
- Inclusion of PAs in state statutes predating PA profession or where it was assumed that by including physicians, PAs were necessarily included



AREAS IN GEORGIA PA LAW TO EXAMINE (Continued)

- Reimbursement issues
 - PAs are not eligible for direct payment from Medicare and nearly all commercial insurance payers
 - Can create problems:
 - PA marketability
 - Federal reimbursement of PA services in rural health clinics
- Designation of PAs as “Primary Health Care Providers” in all state programs



FINAL NOTE

- Both Governor Deal's Rural Hospital Stabilization Committee and the House Rural Development Council have recommended the expansion of the scope of practice of physician assistants, among other health care professions.

QUESTIONS?

