

POET Question:

Are there any rules, regulations, or policies that state a doctor's office must provide patients an option to see a physician or non-physician provider?

TMA Response:

POET,

It is not necessary to notify or have patients sign a form if they are going to be examined by a NPP... however, front office should give the patient a choice when making the appointment. If the doctor is booked for that day (or several days) you may ask the patient if they would like to be seen by the NP or PA.

It is a business decision on the part of the practice whether or not you have the patient sign a form stating that they have agreed to see a NPP.

I hope this information is helpful.

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POET Question:

Is there anything that states/requires "front office should give the patient a choice when making the appointment?"

TMA Response:

POET,

No, that is a business decision, but...of course they need to give the patient the option of seeing a NPP.

Again, there is no TMB rule regarding this. You may want to contact the risk manager at your liability insurance carrier to see what their take is on this.

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