



Policy Statement: Title of the Physician Assistant

The policy of the Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants (SEMPA) is Physician Assistants should only be referred to by the title "Physician Assistant" or the common abbreviation 'PA'. In the case of an "Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant", the abbreviation 'EMPA' is also acceptable.

SEMPA opposes the use of terminology such as "mid-level provider," "physician extender", "physician's assistant", "non-physician provider" when referring to a Physician Assistant.

SEMPA is also opposed to the routine practice of melding terminology when referencing Physician Assistants and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN, NP, CNM, CRNA, etc.). SEMPA believes these professions are distinct and unique and use of a single term to reference both is incorrect, misleading and confusing.

SEMPA understands that Physician Assistants may at times be referred to by a single collective term representing non-Physician professional healthcare providers. SEMPA recognizes Advanced Practice Provider (APP) as the appropriate term in this instance.