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| **TITLE:** Comparing the Visit Characteristics among Physicians and Advanced Care Practitioners |
| **AUTHORS (FIRST NAME, LAST NAME):** Parth Parikh2, Aditi Patel2, Xiaobo Liu1, Michael B. Rothberg2 |
| **Contact Email: drparthparikh@gmail.com**  **INSTITUTIONS (ALL):** 1. Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, United States.  2. Internal Medicine, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, United States. |

**Background:** To reduce physician burden and decrease costs, health systems are increasingly employing advanced care practitioners, including nurse practitioners (NP) and physician assistants (PA). Studies have shown that patient satisfaction and quality of care are similar between primary care physicians (PCP) and NPs. Our objective was to understand patient and visit characteristics of same day visits among the three provider types.  
 **Methods:** A retrospective analysis of adult patients with same day office visits to either a physician, PA or NP was performed. Of the 19,864 patients screened, 400 patients seen by each provider were randomly selected. Two team members manually extracted the following visit-related variables: visit complexity, duration of complaint, number of additional problems addressed, number of prescription and non-prescription medications prior to the visit and groups requiring extra attention. The ANOVA F-test or Kruskal-Wallis test was used to evaluate relationships between continuous measures. Pearson’s chi-square test or Fisher’s exact test was used to assess associations between categorical measures.

**Results:** Physicians were less likely to see patients compared to PAs and NPs who were female, African American or who had commercial insurance. There was no difference in frequency of acute problems (84.1% vs 88.7% vs 85.4 % p=0.69). Physicians were more likely to address additional problems compared to PA and NP’s (35.6% vs 25.8% vs 25.3% p=0.001), and problems that require diagnostic acumen (44.9% vs 33.8% vs 30.3% p<0.001), At the time of the visit, patients of NPs took more prescription medications (Median 4, IQR 2-6) than patients of physicians (3,1-5) or PAs (2,1-4) (p<0.001).  
 **Conclusions:** The patients seen by physicians, PAs and NPs differ in a number of ways that suggest they are not interchangeable. Patients of NPs take more prescription medications but physicians see more complex medical complaints. Physicians also address additional problems more often.