

MISSION STATEMENT

Who Are We?

The National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers is a membership association of doctoral level licensed psychologists. Our [website](#) explains our position on a number of healthcare issues and our executive board biographies can be seen [HERE](#). The following mission statement explains why NAPPP is leading the campaign to inform both the public and providers about the crisis patients with behavioral disorders are experiencing as a result of prescribing practices that are potentially harmful to patients. Our goal is to educate and change the current environment so that patients will receive the best care possible that is free from marketing, non-medical considerations and based on the best available science.

The Mission Of The Truthindrugs Campaign

The mission of the National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers and its behavioral healthcare partners is to inform and make the public aware that there are effective treatment alternatives for those who are experiencing behavioral disorders. There is a crisis in our nation's behavioral health care system. Many factors contribute to this crisis, including financial, regulatory, and cultural issues. One of the most glaring problems in this crisis is the corporate healthcare industry's practice of placing earnings and exorbitant profits above the public interest at the expense of quality services to those in need. There is another significant factor contributing to the poor quality of services provided to patients suffering from behavioral disorders: A significant shift of behavioral healthcare from mental health specialists to primary care physicians. While well-meaning, the majority of primary care physicians are not trained or experienced enough to provide behavioral health treatment and diagnosis. These physicians have become naive distributors for drug manufacturers and collude with insurers in the face of solid research that shows that psychotropic medications are not effective or beneficial for an ever-growing number of patients. NAPPP accepts that not every primary care physician is a puppet of drug companies or the insurance industry. Most are caring and hardworking professionals. However, as a profession, primary care physicians know, or should know, that psychotropic medications are mostly ineffective and potentially dangerous to patients. As such, most physicians who prescribe psychotropic medication do so to the detriment of their patients.

The problems of the present system, in which behavioral health is provided in primary care settings, will become even more pronounced as the new healthcare mandates take effect. We are concerned that healthcare reform will continue and even exacerbate the violation of patient care that is ubiquitous and characteristic of the present system.

We believe that these concerns and problems addressed need to be taken seriously as a public policy issue and that these issues should be a matter of public interest. Consumers of behavioral healthcare must be protected and provided with positive and cost-effective treatments. Should the current practices of behavioral health treatment be continued by primary care physicians, We strongly believe that patients in desperate need of these services will suffer as drug companies, healthcare insurers, and physicians all gain at patients' and the public's expense.

Among the problems that concern us are:

1. Medication as a first line treatment for behavioral conditions is unsupported by the most recent outcome research.
2. Providing behavioral healthcare in a primary care setting without an appropriate evaluation by a doctoral level specialist is ineffective, non-beneficial, costly, and denies patients the standard of care required to treat behavioral disorders.
3. The growing incidence of adverse drug events can be directly tied to the lack of skills and training provided to physicians in medical school and practice. On-the-job training to prescribe medications must be preceded by solid educational preparation. Even the best medical schools provide only 90 hours of pharmacological education over a four-year medical school curriculum. The vast majority of medical schools provide far less training.
4. There is a long-term shortage of psychiatrists that will not be resolved. Because of this shortage, primary care physicians have become the dominant prescribers of psychotropic medications. Drug companies, seizing on physicians' lack of training, have deceived them and the public about the safety, effectiveness, and benefit of psychotropic medications. Consequently, patients have been put at risk and become literal guinea pigs for questionable medications such as antidepressants, antipsychotics, and other drugs marketed to treat behavioral disorders.
5. Children and the aged populations are at the most risk as they are receiving treatment from the least prepared physicians, and are the targets of drug companies, which see children and the aged as "profit centers" in the ever-increasing quest for market share. Off-label use of medications among these populations are promoted by drug companies simply to expand the profitability of their existing products.

6. Taxpayers are also victims of the healthcare industry. Healthcare reform will now require an additional 30+ million people to obtain healthcare insurance. For those unable to afford insurance, their costs will be subsidized. NAPPP supports healthcare reform and universal coverage. We advocate and agree to extending care to everyone who needs it. What we are most concerned about, however, is having taxpayers subsidize drug companies, insurers and providers whose products and services are not proven to work as advertised. Costs for medications will continue to increase to a projected \$400 billion by the time the new reform takes effect. We have a right and responsibility to require physicians to work in the public interest -- and not as mere distributors for drug companies and in collusion with insurers who gladly reimburse for ineffective medications because they are cheaper than providing effective care.

7. Unlimited licensure of physicians contributes to a system in which patients are not being appropriately served and subjected to undue harm. Limited licensure can improve competence and treatment outcomes. It can greatly decrease the cost of healthcare while raising the standard of care provided to patients.

Patients suffering from behavioral disorders are among our most vulnerable citizens. We should not allow any profession or entity to hide behind selective science and the professional domination of healthcare to subject patients and the public to patently ineffective and non-beneficial treatments. We do not argue that the healthcare industry and providers should be denied making a profit. Profit, however, must be balanced with the public good and must honestly and ethically be earned, be based on real need, and be based on sound theories and outcome research. Failure to hold physicians, providers, drug manufacturers and insurers to these minimal standards will produce an even greater crisis in healthcare aside from the misery afflicted on a trusting population at the mercy of a system concerned more with profit than results.

We believe that we can all do better, and we should strive to so.

National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers

www.NAPPP.org