Top 8 Reasons to Hire a NP or PA
Counteract physician shortages.

The U.S. is expected to face a physician shortage of 90,000 by 2020, and 130,000 by 2025. PAs and NPs are increasing in number to help alleviate that shortage.

“NPs constitute the most rapidly growing area of the primary-care workforce, with over 30,000 enrollees in NP programs each year. The PA workforce is also increasing to meet this demand. There is currently approximately one PA for every 10 physicians in clinical practice, and approximately one PA enters the U.S. workforce for every six physicians.”

Danielle Ligenza, communications & public relations manager for Barton Associates, a nationwide locum tenens staffing and recruiting agency
Relieve paperwork burden.

Documentation has always been important, but it’s increasingly becoming a larger and more critical portion of each patient encounter. NPs and PAs can assume some of that responsibility.

“They can assist with the avalanche of paperwork and documentation, including prescriptions, refills, notes, insurance forms, parking forms, and medical record updates.”

Adam Splaver, cardiologist and cofounder of NanoHealth Associates, a practice exploring the molecular level of cardiovascular disease located in Hollywood, Fla.
Increase income and number of patients seen.

With nurse practitioners able to triage patients, carry out specific routine treatment plans like the diagnosis and treatment of UTIs, and complete time-consuming paperwork, the physician can accommodate more patients.

“I can schedule and see more patients in the day, all with a minimal amount of waiting time. [Plus] a NP can be a source of income for the practice since they can bill for services. Additionally, they allow me to see more patients, which is in itself a source of income.”

Splaver
Greater patient satisfaction.

Patients are able to have greater contact with a provider than they otherwise might have, which in turn, increases their satisfaction.

“If I bring in an adjunct like a NP or PA, patients who call in that day can be seen instead of turned away because I’m booked. At least we can initiate care for the patient and make sure they’re getting what they need.”

Sanford J. Vieder, emergency medicine physician and medical director of Lakes Urgent Care clinics in West Bloomfield and Livonia, Mich.
Utilization of NPs and PAs can lead to lower costs of care as evidenced by a study conducted in Massachusetts. Based on statewide data, the study found that care provided by NPs or PAs cost approximately 35 percent less than physician visits.

And the savings don’t stop there. “Liability risk cost for PAs has been found to be one-third of a physician’s liability rate, and NPs have remarkably lower rates of malpractice claims and lower costs per claim.”

Ligenza
Improved patient outcomes.

“The utilization of NPs during preoperative care has multiple benefits, including cost savings associated with the reduction of surgical cancellations, decreased laboratory utilization, and shorter hospital stays. A Loyola University Medical Center study showed a reduction in hospital readmissions when a PA or NP was assigned to the medical or surgical department. The study also recommended a ratio of one PA or NP to every three to four physicians.”

Ligenza
Comparable care to physicians.

“NPs can perform approximately 85 percent of the tasks that primary-care physicians do, while it’s estimated that PAs can perform around 80 percent of tasks. Studies have also shown that NPs and PAs have an effect upon the patient experience that is comparable with, if not superior to, physicians.”

Furthermore, initiatives like patient-centered medical homes have supported and encouraged the use of these types of multidisciplinary teams in an effort to improve patient care.

Ligenza
Another set of eyes for physicians.

The PAs coming out of programs today are incredibly well-trained. By learning their craft well, they are able to recognize bigger problems within the patient population, sometimes faster than physicians.

“It’s like having centuries in an army who can report to the general. And instead of that patient going neglected, there’s that opportunity to capture those more significant issues and get the patient the assistance they need.”

Vieder