**Athletic Trainers as Healthcare Providers in a Public Health Crisis**

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Athletic trainers (ATs) are healthcare professionals who render service or treatment, under the direction of or in collaboration with a physician, in accordance with their education and training and the state's statutes, rules, and regulations. ATs, who are traditionally known as musculoskeletal experts, can also support a variety of other providers and disciples including primary care, neurology, oncology, trauma and cardiology. The skill set of an athletic trainer is widely varied. ATs can assist with patient care in the clinic, make clinical decisions based on patient’s history and present illness, support a plan of care by navigating patients to the correct providers, and assist with surgical cases in the operating room. ATs have the skill set to support advanced practice providers in delivering exceptional patient care at all times including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Health Care Topics**

Care Coordination

Patient Education

Acute care of injury and illness

Patient Triage

Implementation of EAP

Patient assessment

Documentation

Acute medical emergency recognition

Wound Care

Casting & Splinting

***What can ATs currently do to support an advanced practice provider during the COVID-19 crisis?***

* Patient readiness - pre visit screenings on patients via phone or Telemedicine platform to and discuss with them what the facility is doing to combat the COVID-19 crisis.
* Patient Pre Screen - Before an in-person visit, patient will be taken through a series of questions regarding their current health status and exposure to COVID-19. All information is documented appropriately in EMR.
* Patient Triage - ATs can help determine if a patient qualifies for a telehealth appointment and coordinating registration and paperwork through appropriate platform.
* Post-operative visits - ATs can perform, wound checks, suture and staple removals, splint/casting changes for appropriate post-operative patients.
* ATs can continue to support a provider even through Telemedicine. The AT can set up the appointment, take a detailed history, and document the visit for APP in EMR
* Patient triage line answered by ATs that screens patients referred by any PCP office, for MSK injuries and or ailments.
* Working to run an Orthopaedic Urgent Care Clinic to steer MSK injuries away from the ED.
* ATs can help run COVID-19 testing by taking temperatures and performing swabs.