

Emerging Spinecare Trends

Future Role of Physicians and Spine Specialists (Spinecare Team)

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There has never been a greater need for spine physicians and spine specialists of various disciplines to prepare for the future and begin working with one another. Successful spinecare requires collaboration, networking and integration at many different levels. In the future physicians will strive for excellence and will do what is necessary to distinguish themselves and enhance their role in spinecare. This process will include acquiring additional training credentialing. New graduates will look for opportunities in multidisciplinary spinecare facilities and centers of excellence rather than small isolated practices.

Integrated spine centers will prioritize hiring of physicians and support staff who are well trained, credentialed, and experienced in various levels of spinecare. Emphasis will be placed on hiring staff which prioritize the delivery of conservative care because the majority of patients seen in these facilities will not require invasive or surgical intervention. This trend will enhance the role of the chiropractic physician, physical therapist, and physical medicine specialists. In the future the chiropractic physician may assume the role of a primary spinecare clinician. The future will also offer unique interdisciplinary residencies, fellowships and credentialing opportunities.

Physicians of the future will have a greater responsibility to direct their patients to online "need-to-know" information about their spine disorder and reasonable treatment options. Physicians will be encouraged to recommend patients with one or more chronic spine disorders to become a member of a national and/or international organization so they can stay informed and learn more about how they can help themselves. The future will bring new standards of care and will expand the responsibilities associated with informed consent.