

(3) Advanced Practice Nurses: Prime Candidates to Become Primary Caregivers in Relation to Increasing Physician Shortages Due to Health Care Reform. Kevin Murphy, JD 2011. Mr. Murphy makes the case that APRNs can assume primary care provider roles and do so safely. He explains that APRNs can treat illness and teach wellness while realizing high patient satisfaction. Journal of Nursing Law, Vol. 14 No. 3,4 (2011) Springer Publishing Co. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1891/1073-7472.14.3.4.117

(4) Physician Assistant and Advance Practice Nurse Care in Hospital Outpatient Departments: United States, 2008-2009. Hing E, Uddin S. 2011. The authors explain that APRNs and physician assistants care for patients in clinics that serve as a primary provider of care. They more often see patients in non-teaching hospitals and visits with a PA or APRN are more frequent in rural areas. This contradicts the contention by some physician groups that APRNs would not locate to rural areas and therefore cannot be a solution for lack of access to care in those areas. Physician assistant and advance practice nurse care in hospital outpatient departments: United States, 2008–2009. NCHS data brief, no 77. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db77.htm


(6) Quality of Care Provided by Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nursing Research Network. 2011. This research brief highlights studies of outcomes related to care by APRNs often comparing outcomes with care rendered by physicians. They found equal or better outcomes in these studies with patient satisfaction often being higher for the APRN group. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nursing Research Network Evidence Brief, May, 2011. http://thefutureofnursing.org/resource/detail/quality-care-provided-advanced-practice-registered-nurses-aprns

(7) Nurse Practitioners as Primary Care Providers within the VA, Carol Fletcher PhD, Laurel Copeland PhD, Julie Lowery PhD, and Pamela Reeves MD 2011. This study examined the perceptions of APRNs and physicians regarding APRN roles as primary care providers within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Findings suggested comparable outcomes for those treated for diabetes or hypertension. They further

(8) Costs of Care Provided by APRNs, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nursing Research Network. 2011. In this brief research of cost savings associated with APRN care is highlighted. They concluded that costs overall were lowered while quality was maintained or improved. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nursing Research Network Evidence Brief, May, 2011. http://thefutureofnursing.org/sites/default/files/Cost%20of%20Care%20Provided%20by%20Advanced%20Practice%20Registered%20Nurses.pdf


(10) CNM Outcomes, Johantgen, M. et al 2012. Comparison of Labor and Delivery Care Provided by Certified Nurse-Midwives and Physicians. In this review of publications using PubMed, CINAHL and Proquest, similar results were found between CNMs and physicians for many infant outcomes but perineal laceration occurrence was lower and breast feeding rates higher for the CNM. CNM Outcomes: A Systematic Review 1990-2008. Women's Health Issues, 22(1), e73-381. Doi: 10.1016/j.whi.2011.06.005.


(12) Report of the Committee on Geographic Adjustment Factors in Medicare Payment. 2012. This IOM report is part II of the Geographic Adjustment in Medicare Payment reports and it once again states that APRNs be allowed to practice to the full extent of their education. The Institute of Medicine of The National Academies, Geographic Adjustment in Medicare Payment - Phase II: Implications for Access, Quality, and Efficiency, July 17, 2012 http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2012/Geographic-Adjustment-in-Medicare-Payment-Phase-II.aspx

(13) Understanding Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Distribution in Urban and Rural Areas of the United States Using National Provider Data, Susan Skillman, Louise Kaplan et al, 2012. This study of the national provider identifier for APRNs it was found that 152,785 APRNs are in the US and that overall there are 3.6 urban to 2.8 rural NPs per 10,000 population. Once again this counters the often cited argument by physicians that APRNs will not locate in rural areas and would not be a solution to primary care shortages in those areas. ANA and WWAMI Rural Health Research Center, The Rural Health Final Report Series, Final Report #137 http://www.nursingworld.org/APRNdistributionreport

(14) Anthony P. Carnevale, Nicole Smith, Artem Gulish, Bennett H. Beacher, June, 2012, Healthcare Executive Summary. In this highly informative report on the healthcare workforce it is noted that higher levels of education are increasingly required of the healthcare workforce and that shortages do not exist across the board, rural health and some specialties are disproportionately affected. Georgetown Public Policy Institute, Georgetown University. http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/Healthcare.ExecutiveSummary.090712.pdf

(15) Removing Barriers to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Care: Hospital Privileges. Andrea Brassard July, 2012. AARP extensively reviews the potential barriers to full practice for APRNs in hospitals and argues for the extension of privileging and credentialing to these roles, illustrating the benefits to the interprofessional team, to hospital administrators, to insurers and to consumers when this occurs. Home Health and Hospice Services. Public Policy Institute. http://www.aarp.org/health/medicare-

(16) The Role of Nurse Practitioners in Meeting the Increasing Need for Primary Care, an NGA paper. Maria Schiff 2012. *This paper suggests that states consider changing the scope of practice restrictions on nurse practitioners so they might practice fully in the provision of primary health care.* The National Governor’s Association NGA Center for Best Practices http://statepolicyoptions.nga.org/policy_article/nurse-practitioners-and-primary-care

(17) Nurse Practitioner Workforce, a Substantial Supply of Primary Care Providers. Lusine Poghosyan, PhD, MPH, RN, Robert Lucero, PhD, MPH, RN, Lindsay Rauch, BSN, Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, FAAN, Dec 07, 2012. *With a thorough review of the issues this article once again notes that APRNs are uniquely suited to address the primary care access problems if barriers to their full utilization are lifted.* Nursing Econ. 2012; 30(5):268-274. © 2012 Jannetti Publications, Inc. http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/773243


(19) When the Doctor Is Not Needed, editorial. December 15, 2012. *In this editorial and in the subsequent comments, the idea is advanced that APRNs and pharmacists and community aides can all contribute to reducing healthcare expenditures while increasing access to and ease of care.* The New York Times, Sunday Review, editorial, http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/16/opinion/sunday/when-the-doctor-is-not-needed.html?_r=0


(21) Sometimes the Best Medical Care is provided by those Who Aren’t MDs, Amesh Adalja, M.D. February 10, 2013. *This physician makes the case in a Forbes opinion piece that APRNs might serve provider roles where the expertise of a physician is not strictly required. He further asserts that licensing laws are barriers to utilization of these roles.* Forbes, Capital Flows, OP/ED. http://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2013/02/10/sometimes-the-best-medical-care-is-provided-bythose-who-arent-m-d-s/

(22) Nurse Practitioners Are In, and Why You May Be Seeing More of Them, February 13, 2013. *Describing the state driven barriers to full practice by APRNs, this article also contends that commercial clinics run by APRNs are expanding and filling a need. The article stresses that retail clinic owners have an interest in removing these legislative barriers in states.* Retrieved from: Knowledge@Wharton. http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/article.cfm?articleid=3183


(24) Elbert S. Huang, and Kenneth Finegold, 2013. Seven Million Americans Live In Areas Where Demand for Primary Care May Exceed Supply by More Than 10 Percent, February, 2013, Health Affairs. *Estimating the expansion of insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act, the authors make a compelling case that some areas of the country are considerably more vulnerable to access issues than others.* Retrieved from: http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/early/2013/02/19/hlthaff.2012.0913

(26) N.C. Aizenman, 2013. Nurses can practice without physician supervision in many states. APRNs are a resource that could be used presently to alleviate primary care access issues in many states. This article stresses the legislative attempts to accomplish removal of barriers to APRN practice. The Washington Post, washingtonpost.com Retrieved from: http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-03-24/national/37989896_1_nurse-practitioner-physician-primary-care-practices

(27) David Pittman, March 19, 2013. Doc Support for Patient Safety Movement Lags, Med Page Today. Dr. Lucian Leape, leader of the patient safety movement, calls for a federal patient safety agency. Despite the rhetoric from organized physician groups about needing a physician on every care team, Dr. Leape is quoted as saying, “We don’t do teams well.” “Doctors tend to feel they have an individual veto over safe practices, if they don’t agree with something, they feel they don’t have to follow it.” Retrieved from: http://www.medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/Ethics/37956


(30) Anna Reisman, April 18, 2013. Free the Nurses, One answer to our health care crisis: Let nurse practitioners do primary care on their own. The Slate Group, a Division of the Washington Post Company. Nurse practitioners and other APRNs can address the primary care gap and some physicians agree yet others reflect the medical society rhetoric that APRNs will not know when to see consultation or referral. In this article Dr. Reisman argues for lifting the barriers to APRN practice, particularly for those who would seek to do primary care. Retrieved from: http://www.slate.com/articles/double_x/doublex/2013/04/nurse_practitioners_should_do_primary_car e_on_their_own.single.html


(32) David Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.P., and Melinda K. Abrams, M.S. NEJ editorial May 16, 2013, Putting Aside Preconceptions — Time for Dialogue among Primary Care Clinicians. David Blumenthal and Melinda Abrams of the Commonwealth Fund describe the primary care roles that both APRNs and PCPs can provide while acknowledging differences in their training,. They advocate for cooperation and
collaboration and patient preference in providing primary care services. Retrieved from:
(33) John Inglehart. May 16, 2013, Expanding the Role of Advanced Nurse Practitioners, the Risks and Rewards, a Health Policy Report. The New England Journal of Medicine. n engl j med 368; 20 nejm.org may 16, 2013. In this important article, the emphasis is on the impending expansion of coverage under the ACA at the same time that a primary care physician shortage looms. Following the course set by the IOM Future of Nursing Report of 2010, APRNs have aligned education and certification, positioning themselves to assume a provider status alongside physicians. This possible solution to the access to care problem is met with resistance by organized medical groups. Retrieved from:
(34) Karen Donelan, Sc.D., Catherine M. DesRoches, Dr.P.H. Robert S. Dittus, M.D., M.P.H., and Peter Buerhaus, R.N., Ph.D. 2013 Perspectives of Physicians and Nurse Practitioners on Primary Care Practice. A special article, The New England Journal of Medicine. May 16, 2013, n engl j med 368; 20 nejm.1898 org may 16, 2013. A study of primary care clinicians demonstrated disagreement between physicians and APRNs on their roles in primary care delivery. APRNs were less likely to believe that physicians provided higher quality examinations or consultation than APRNs. Retrieved from:
(35) Lars E. Peterson, MD, PhD, Robert L. Phillips, MD, MSPH, James C. Puffer, MD, Andrew Bazemore, MD, MPH, Stephen Petterson, PhD, 2013. Most Family Physicians Work Routinely With Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, or Certified Nurse Midwives. Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine. 2013; 26(3):244-245. This policy brief in the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine describes the collaboration that occurs every day between primary care providers and APRNs in practice. In a 2011 survey 60% of respondents answered that they work routinely with APRNs. Retrieved from:
http://www.jabfm.org/content/26/3/244.full.pdf
(36) Wall Street Journal Reports June 13, 2013. Should Nurse Practitioners Be Able to Treat Patients without Physician Oversight? In this opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal Reports both a pro and con position is taken on the need of physician oversight of nurse practitioners providing patient care. Angela Golden of AANP makes the case for practice autonomy and Reid Blackwelder of the American Academy of Family Physicians argues that nurse practitioners are best used for monitoring the condition of stable patients. Retrieved from:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324715704578480911396098592.html?KEYWORDS=nurse+practitioners
(37) Report OEI-02-09-00603, 06/20/2013. Prescribers with Questionable Patterns in Medicare Part D, the Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This study of Medicare Part D prescriber data analyzes the average number of prescriptions per beneficiary as well as the number of pharmacies associated with each prescriber, the percentage of scripts that are brand name and that are for schedule II or schedule III drugs. Prescribers are grouped as generalists or specialists and data is available for nurse practitioners and for physicians’ assistants. Retrieved from:
http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-02-09-00603.asp
(38) Tracy Yee, Ellyn R. Boukus, Dori Cross, Divya R. Samuel, 2013, Primary Care Workforce Shortages: Nurse Practitioner Scope-of-Practice Laws and Payment Policies Laws Don’t Affect Services Provided by Nurse Practitioners But Do Limit Practice Opportunities. NIHCR Research Brief NO. 13 This report stresses the potential to utilize nurse practitioners in primary care and suggests policy makers may want to consider regulatory changes even beyond revising scope of practice laws, to grant direct payment to NPs under Medicaid.
Yong-Fang Kuo, Figaro L. Loresto, Linda R. Rounds, and James S Goodwin, 2013, States with Least Restrictive Regulations Experienced the Largest Increase in Patients Seen by Nurse Practitioners. Health Affairs, 32, # 7 (2013): 1236-1243

Using Medicare claims data and Linda Pearson’s maps methodology for full practice applied to nurse practitioners, this demonstrated a 2.5 fold greater likelihood of receiving their primary care from an NP than did the most restrictive states.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323393804578555741780608176.html
Eighteen experts outline their ideas for addressing a predicted physician shortage, particularly in primary care. Eleven stressed removing restrictions to APRNs.

This very thorough report describes how APRNs can expand access to care, utilizing innovative models, and emphasizing the research on safety and quality in care provided by APRNs. They describe present barriers as legal/regulatory, institutional, and cultural.

Marla J. Weston, PhD, RN, FAAN, Chief Executive Officer American Nurses Association; July 17, 2013. A letter to Honorable Marilyn Tavenner, MHA, RN, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. On behalf of the ANA Marla Weston proposes that Qualified Health Plans credential no less than 10% of the Medicare part B APRN count for that state, thus assuring adequate representation of APRNs in those exchanges. http://www.nursingworld.org/cms71913

Updated August, 2013