

Challenges and Opportunities Facing Nurse Practitioners Providing Primary Care in an Era of Health Reform

AMN
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Overview

1. Why the interest in nurse practitioners providing primary care
2. Highlights of three studies assessing the contributions of NPs
 - Planning for the ACA insurance expansions
 - Empirical assessment of NPs and physicians providing primary care services to Medicare beneficiaries
 - National Survey of Primary Care NPs and Physicians
3. *Tomorrow morning*
4. Challenges facing the registered nurse (RN) workforce
 - Key demographic trends and projections of future supply
 - Regional variations in projections
 - Rapid growth in nursing education
 - Uncertainty over how lingering effects of the Great Recession will affect the current and future workforce
5. Where there are challenges there are opportunities

Research Team

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Disclosure

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Disclosure

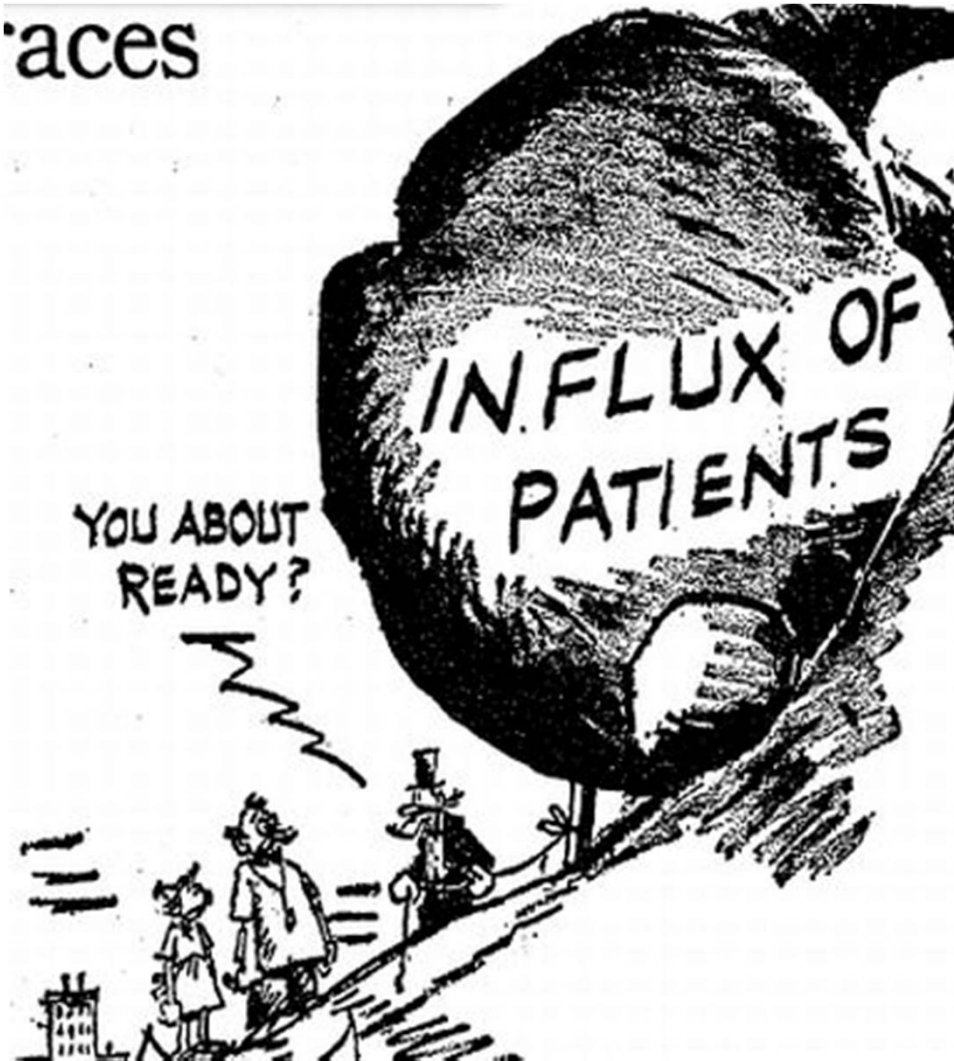
The data and views expressed in this presentation are mine, and are not the views of the (still unfunded) National Health Care Workforce Commission

Buerhaus, P. Retchin, S. The Dormant National Health Care Workforce Commission Needs Congressional Funding To Realize its Promise. *Heath Affairs* (November 4, 2013).

Why is there so much interest in expanding the supply and roles of nurse practitioners?

October 1, 2014

aces



Worry about PCP shortages and access

- Primary care physician shortages
 - 45,000 by 2020, 66,000 by 2025 (AAMC)
 - Nearly the same projections for specialists physicians
- Yet, increasing demand for primary care
 - 25-30 million Americans obtaining health insurance
 - Adding between 15 and 24 million primary care visits by 2019 (Hoffner, et al)
- Access to care already a problem for
 - 58 million *currently* lack adequate access to primary care physician (Kaiser Family Foundation)

Nurse Practitioners

- Preponderance of evidence shows quality of NP care similar to or better than physicians for comparable services, and many find lower costs
 - Recent evidence that NP supply is greater in less restrictive states
- Substantial government investments in NP workforce
 - Multiple care delivery programs relying on NPs (and other APRNs), even Medicare(\$200m)

Scope of Practice and Projections

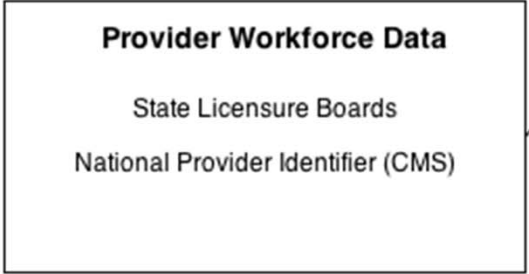
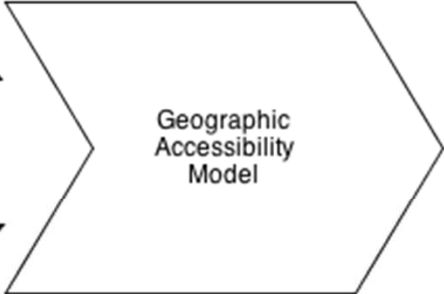
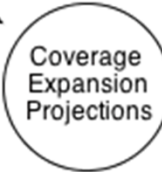
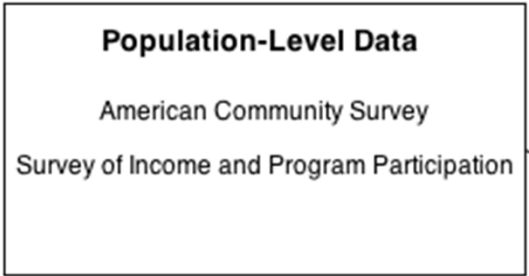
- Currently, 16 states and DC permit NPs to practice and prescribe medications without physician oversight; 7 require physician oversight for prescribing only ... limiting capacity of primary care workforce
- NP workforce projections*
 - Adding 6,000 to 7,000 NPs per year
 - ≈ 244,000 NPs by 2025 ... how many in primary care?

*Auerbach, D. 2012. Will the NP workforce grow in the future? New forecasts and implications for healthcare delivery. *Medical Care*

Study Highlights

Study One: Planning for the ACA's Affect on Demand for Primary Care

- Where do the uninsured live?
- Who is eligible to enroll? What are their characteristics?
- How does the geographic distribution of the primary care workforce relate to the geographic distribution of the coverage expansion populations?
 - Identify where “hot spots” are expected to develop



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Addressing gaps in PCP shortage areas
will require access to NPs and PAs

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Summary

1. Demand for primary care and NPs is expected to increase substantially over decade
2. Policy and economic doors have swung open for greater use of NPs
3. Past and current research provides strong evidence of value of NPs
4. Deep divisions between NPs and PCPs linger

special article

Perspectives of Physicians and Nurse Practitioners on Primary Care Practice

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.

Abstract

Background

From Mongan Institute for Health Policy, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Harvard Medical School — both in Boston (K.D.); Mathematica Policy Research, Cambridge, MA (C.M.D.); and the Department of Medicine, Institute for Medicine and Public Health, Vanderbilt University, and VA Tennessee Valley Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (R.S.D.), and the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies, Vanderbilt University Medical Center (P.B.) — all in Nashville. Address reprint requests to Dr. Donelan at Mongan Institute for Health Policy, Massachusetts General Hospital, 50 Staniford St., 9th Fl., Boston, MA 02114, or at kdonelan@partners.org.

The U.S. health care system is at a critical juncture in health care workforce planning. The nation has a shortage of primary care physicians. Policy analysts have proposed expanding the supply and scope of practice of nurse practitioners to address increased demand for primary care providers. These proposals are controversial.

Methods

From November 23, 2011, to April 9, 2012, we conducted a national postal-mail survey of 972 clinicians (505 physicians and 467 nurse practitioners) in primary care practice. Questionnaire domains included scope of work, practice characteristics, and attitudes about the effect of expanding the role of nurse practitioners in primary care. The response rate was 61.2%.

Results

HEALTH POLICY REPORT

Expanding the Role of Advanced Nurse Practitioners — Risks and Rewards

John K. Iglehart

As the 2014 expansion of coverage mandated by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) looms larger, one question with no ready answer is how health care providers, policymakers, and payers will cope with an expected surge in patient demand for nursing, and the highly variable limits that state scope-of-practice laws impose on APRNs. I will discuss the intervention of the FTC into scope-of-practice matters, a new report by the National Governors Association that urges states

EDITORIALS

Putting Aside Preconceptions — Time for Dialogue among Primary Care Clinicians

David Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.P., and Melinda K. Abrams, M.S.

In this issue of the *Journal*, Donelan and colleagues¹ report that primary care physicians and nurse practitioners often work side by side but system lags so dramatically behind that of other developed nations.⁷ One option in addressing the threatened pri-

Finally, For Nurse Practitioners

- Challenge: Addressing and removing deep divisions with PCPs
 - Avoid slipping into “We have to win” mentality, us/them
- Opportunity: Reimagine the primary care workforce, one that is designed around assessing the needs of the population and configuring the workforce to meet them
 - Interdisciplinary education

2. What should we discuss?