Role of Nurse Practitioners in Meeting the Nation’s Primary Care Needs
National Health Policy Forum
Reconsidering Scope of Practice
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Presentation Focus

- Compare NP workforce data with PA and Physician data
- Discuss regulatory scope of practice issues
- Discuss reimbursement issues
Improving Access and Overall Health System Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Macrosystems</th>
<th>Microsystems</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Policies, regulations, organizations and environmental forces that support or provide barriers to Microsystems</td>
<td>• People, processes and practices that interact directly with patients or support patient care at the local level</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Federal/State regulations</td>
<td>• Primary care practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>– Reimbursement policies</td>
<td>• ED</td>
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<td>– Educational standards/policies</td>
<td>• ICU</td>
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<td>– Accreditation</td>
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<td>– National boards</td>
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### Is The Number of Primary Care Providers in U.S. Over 400,000?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total (2013 data)</th>
<th>Percent primary care</th>
<th># Practicing primary care</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(878,194)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Federation of State Medical Boards Data</td>
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<tr>
<td>106,073</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>180,233</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaiser Foundation: <a href="http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-nurse-practitioners/">http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/total-nurse-practitioners/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PAs</strong></td>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td>30,402 (2010) 37,541 (2013)</td>
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<tr>
<td>86,500</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AAPAs Vital Statistics 2012 National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,144,927</td>
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# Geographic Distribution of Health Care Professionals in Primary Care, 2010


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>NP</th>
<th>PA</th>
<th>Family physicians</th>
<th>Gen Internal Med</th>
<th>General Peds</th>
<th>US Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>72.2%</td>
<td>75.1%</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
<td>89.8%</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Rural</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Rural</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Rural/Frontier</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Only 92 additional U.S. graduates matched to primary care specialties compared to 2012

- Family Medicine match by U.S. medical students: 1,374 (an increase of 39 from 2012)
- General Internal Medicine Primary Care matches by U.S. medical students: 200 (an increase of 14 from 2012).
- Primary Care Pediatrics match by U.S. medical students: 30 (an increase of 3 from 2012)
- Internal Medicine Pediatrics match by U.S. medical students: 312 (an increase of 36 from 2012)

- Total of 1,916 U.S. medical school graduates matched to primary care residency programs
- Including international graduates, 3,715 primary care matches

2013 Primary Care Workforce Data
2012 NP Graduation Rates

- 14,401 graduates from all NP programs in 2012

- 11,936 (82%) prepared in primary care roles
  - an increase of about 2,000 from 2011 graduates
  - Enrollment rates continue to grow
  - Currently a total of about 180,000 NPs nationally

**Specific Primary Care NP Rates**

- Family NP: 8,107
- Adult NP: 1,867
- Peds NP: 888
- Gero NP: 81
- Adult/GNP: 398
- Women’s Health: 423

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF)(2013). Enrolment & Graduation Annual survey.
NPs choose and practice in primary care to a larger degree (by %) than either physicians, or PAs

U.S. Primary Care Physician numbers are basically stagnant based on 2013 Match data while Primary Care Physicians continue to choose specialty practices over primary care for very complex reasons

PAs tend to follow physician practice decisions; although numbers are increasing, fewer PAs are practicing in primary care.

Need for more accurate workforce data
State Scope of Practice Regulations

22 states and DC allow independent practice with some prescriptive limits

17 states and DC allow NPs to practice fully under their own license (full plenary authority) including prescriptive authority

12 states considered restricted

Five states have legislation in process
(California, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania)

Substantial evidence to support NPs practicing to their full extent of educational preparation (Macy Foundation Report, IOM reports, National Governors Association Report, )
State by State Regulation


- **Green:** Full Authority
- **Yellow:** Limited Authority
- **Red:** Restricted practice

2013 Nurse Practitioner State Practice Environment
Scope & Regulation: Macrosystem Four “Legs” of Regulation

Changes in Healthcare Professions’ Scope of Practice: Legislative Considerations, 2007.
Medicaid Reimbursement Rate*
- 75% 4 States
- 80% 3 States
- 83% 1 State
- 85% 4 States
- 90% 7 States
- 92% 1 State (for “some” services)
- 95% 1 State
- 100% Remainder & DC

Medicare: NPs reimbursed directly at 85% physician rate with collaborative agreement
  - 100% if billed “incident to”/under physician

Medicaid: State by state policies ranging from 75%–100% rate of physicians

Commercial insurers: vary, some using Medicare policy and others at 100%

*http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/nurse-practitioner-services/#table
NPs Are Part of the Solution to the Critical Primary Care Workforce Issues

- About 12,000 NP new graduates per year prepared as primary care providers
- Substantial evidence over 40 years that NPs provide quality, cost efficient care, high patient satisfaction
- NPs well positioned to be part of the solution to issues of access to primary care


