



Effective Health Care

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)

Scope of Practice

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) scope of practice was found to be addressed by a 2011 systematic review on health outcomes associated with advanced practice nurse-led care. Given that the existing review covers this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
 - Newhouse RP, Stanik-Hutt J, White KM, Johantgen M, Bass EB, Zangaro G, Wilson RF, Fountain L, Steinwachs DM, Heindel L, Weiner JP. Advanced practice nurse outcomes 1990-2008: a systematic review. Nurs Econ. 2011 Sep-Oct;29(5):230-50.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in research that compares health outcomes, access, cost, and quality of care from APRNs practicing in states that allow for fully autonomous practice compared with those providing care in states that have statutory limitations on the scope of APRN practice.

Staff-Generated PICO

Population(s): Patients with chronic disease receiving primary care from an APRN, including subgroups based on insurance coverage, receipt of routine care, and race/ethnicity

Intervention(s): Fully autonomous scope of practice in a state without statutory limitations

Comparator(s): Limited scope of practice in a state with statutory limitations

Outcome(s): Access, cost, and quality of care; disease-specific outcomes, including weight, BMI, lipids, HbA1c, and blood pressure

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. In view of the latest Affordable Care & Health Reform legislation, how will keeping weak national and individual state-by-state lack of full recognition for autonomous practice in primary care for “non-physician” providers such as APRNs impact the exponential demand for increased access to care?
2. By restricting APRNs of full autonomous practice privileges, is access to cost-effective, quality care being restricted for Americans?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Topic was found to be addressed by an existing systematic review by Newhouse and colleagues titled *Advanced practice nurse outcomes 1990-2008: a systematic review*. The review aimed to answer the question of whether APRN patient outcomes of care are similar to other providers (physicians or teams without APRNs). The review included 69 studies published between 1990 and 2008. Although this review does not look at the scope of practice policy comparison identified in this nomination, it does evaluate health outcomes, including blood pressure, lipid control, glucose control, ED visits, etc. The authors conclude that patient outcomes of care provided by some APRN groups in collaboration with physicians are similar to and in some ways better than care provided by physicians alone for the populations and in the settings included in the studies. The authors also discuss the policy implications of their results.
- A new review focused only on the comparison of health outcomes of APRN-led care between states with varying statutory limitations is not feasible for a full systematic review as our literature scan identified no studies addressing this comparison.