



Effective Health Care

Primary Care Led by Nurse Practitioner versus Physician

Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Primary care led by nurse practitioner versus physician was found to be addressed by a report titled *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). Given that the existing report and ongoing work by the IOM and RWJF cover this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
 - *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* is available to the public online at: <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/The-Future-of-Nursing-Leading-Change-Advancing-Health.aspx>
Along with this report, the RWJF has launched a website with more information regarding ongoing activities related to this report available at: www.thefutureofnursing.org.

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator is interested in the comparative effectiveness of primary care provided by a nurse practitioner versus a physician.

Staff-Generated PICOS

Population(s): All patients including rural and underserved populations and those with chronic disease such as diabetes, COPD, asthma, hypertension, and coronary artery disease

Intervention(s): Care provided by a nurse practitioner under the nursing model

Comparator(s): Care provided by a physician under the medical model

Outcome(s): Safety, efficacy, and quality of care

Setting(s): Primary care

Key Questions from Nominator:

1. What is the comparative effectiveness of primary care provided by independent family nurse practitioners when compared to family practice physicians when the two provider types have similar authority to practice and groups are controlled for similar years of post graduate experience (with residency included in calculation of post-graduate experience).

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/>.)

- In 2008, the RWJF and the IOM launched a two-year initiative to produce a report that would make recommendations for the future of nursing, to find solutions to the challenges facing the nursing profession, and to build upon nursing-based solutions to improve the quality of health care in the US. The report was released on October 5, 2010. This report includes consideration of advanced practice nurses including nurse practitioners. The report has featured four key messages:
 - Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
 - Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
 - Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.
 - Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.

- Additionally, the RWJF has launched a website for ongoing work related to the initiative. Among other information, research data, tools for education, and upcoming events related to the future of nursing can be accessed here. The website is www.thefutureofnursing.org.