

EDUCATING NON-PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TO ADDRESS PRIMARY CARE NEEDS

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January 24, 2013



Primary Care:

Broad range of services including initial evaluation of new symptoms, on-going care for chronic disease, and prevention services such as immunizations or screening

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NPs and PAs are health professions begun in the U.S. in the 1960's in response to shortages and uneven distribution of physicians

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What is the difference between a
NP and a PA?

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PAs are health professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision

NPs can practice independently (varies by state)



How are they similar?

Same scope of practice

- \$ assess patients

- \$ order and interpret diagnostic tests

- \$ make diagnoses

- \$ initiate and manage treatment plans, including prescribing medications

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Both require graduate degrees

MS for Physician Assistant

MNS or DNP for Nurse Practitioner

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Both have specialties

PA specialties reflect pattern of
physician specialties



Advanced Practices Nurses

- \$ Clinical Nurse Specialist
- \$ Nurse Anesthetist
- \$ Nurse Midwife
- \$ Nurse Practitioner

Nurse Practitioner

- \$ Family Nurse Practitioner
- \$ Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
- \$ Women's Health Nurse Practitioner
- \$ Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- \$ Geriatric Nurse Practitioner
- \$ More

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Role in Primary Care



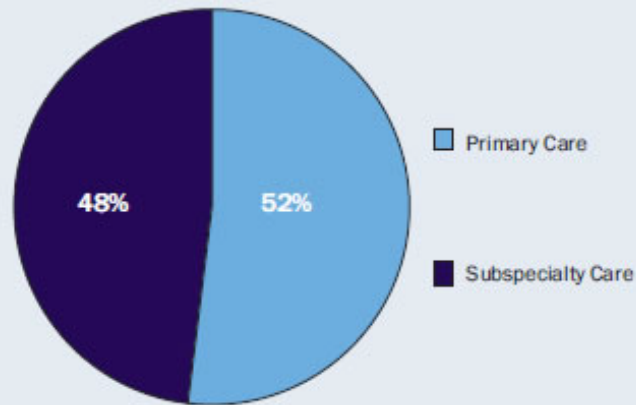
U.S. Primary Care Workforce by Provider Type, 2010

<u>Primary Care Provider</u>	<u>Number</u>
Physicians	208,807
Nurse Practitioners	55,625
Physician Assistants	30,402
Total	294,834

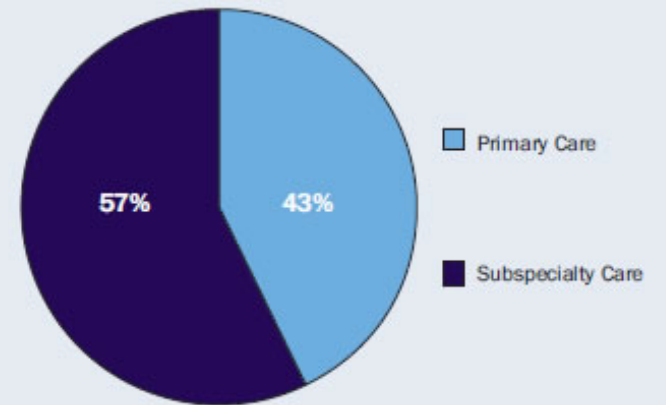
Source: AHRQ Primary Care Workforce Facts and Stats #1 and #2



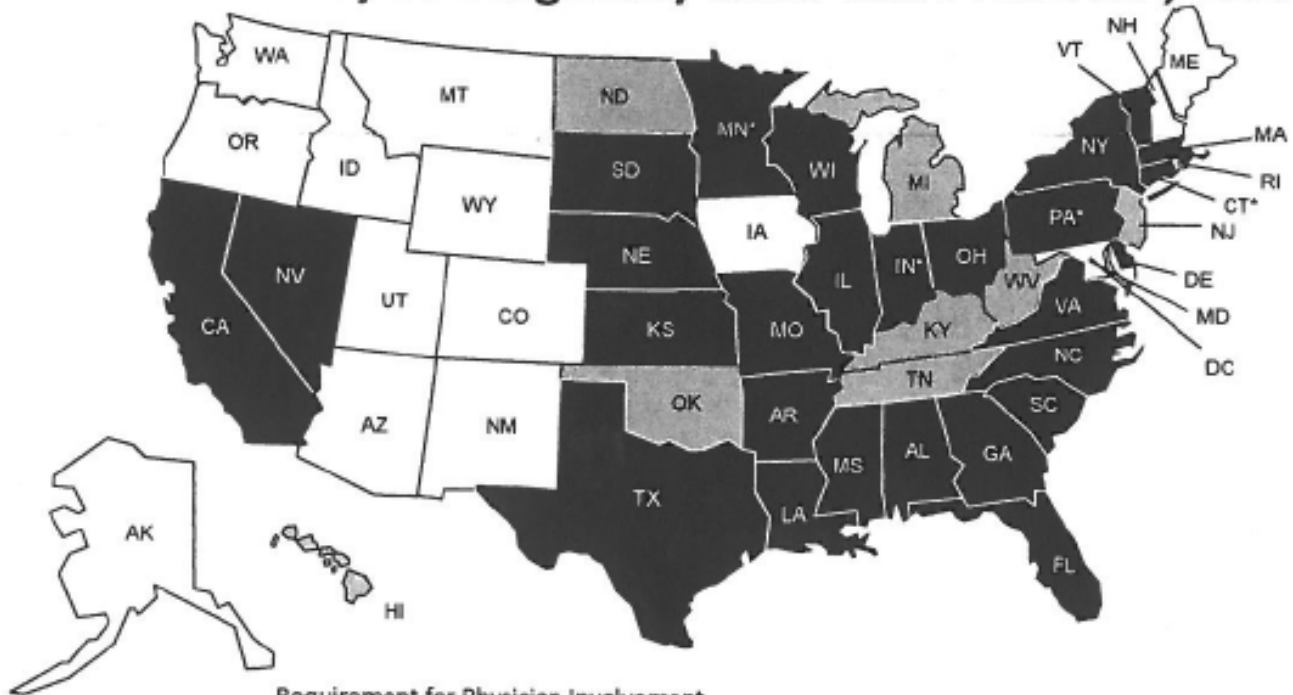
Nurse practitioners by specialty



Physician assistants by specialty



Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice: Authority to Diagnose/Treat and Prescribe, 2011



Requirement for Physician Involvement

- Physician involvement NOT required to diagnose/treat or prescribe (15 states & DC)
- Written documentation of physician involvement required to prescribe, but NOT to diagnose/treat (8 states)
- Written documentation of physician involvement required to diagnose/treat and prescribe (27 states)*

*In CT, IN, MN, and PA, physician involvement is required to diagnose/treat, but written documentation of relationship is not required.

SOURCE: *The 2011 Pearson Report*, The American Journal for Nurse Practitioners, NP Communications LLC. The complete state-by-state NP legislation/regulation summary and analysis is available at www.webnponline.com.

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Scope of practice barriers must be removed to ensure healthcare professionals work at the top of their license without unnecessary regulations limiting care provision.

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Quality and cost-effectiveness of NP and PA care



These clinicians perform as well as physicians on important clinical outcome measures:

\$ mortality

\$ improvement in pathological conditions

\$ reduction of symptoms

\$ health status

\$ functional status

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Patients are generally more satisfied with care provided by NPs and PAs and more likely to have been given appropriate advice

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Complexity profile of services provided to Medicaid beneficiaries were similar between NPs, PAs and primary care physicians.

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What makes sense?



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