

### **Nurse Practitioner Reimbursement**

Doctors and nurse practitioners share the same job description such as diagnosing and treating. However, when Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement returns come, the rates for nurses are below average compared to doctors. This is because Medicare and Medicaid are government-managed programs and they decide doctors' reimbursement as per fee schedule. Nevertheless, Medicare is a federally managed program and state program rates vary depending on states. Nurse practitioner reimbursement rates differ from 75% to 100% depending on the state. Even though the United States of America (USA) spends the most money on healthcare, there are still concerns with access to primary care. These concerns are more pronounced in some parts of the country (Arifkhanova, 2017).

The process required making change include; first, nursing practitioners should join, <sup>2</sup> the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) which is an organization for nursing practitioners. As a result, AANP will <sup>2</sup> advocate on a regional and national level with <sup>9</sup> politicians to make policy changes on equal reimbursement between doctors and nurse practitioners. <sup>2</sup> Nurses should be full partners with doctors and other healthcare providers, in remodeling healthcare in the United States. Healthcare facilities must obtain data that reveals <sup>2</sup> how the nurse practitioner role decreases healthcare costs and increases access to care while <sup>2</sup> providing the same services that doctors provide. It will be important to have data to back the request because without it might be a challenge to convince the government why there should be equal reimbursement between doctors and nurse practitioners.

Lastly, involving the public through social media will ensure changes are made on a national level because many people go to nurses as their primary care providers. <sup>2</sup> Lack of awareness is the main reason <sup>2</sup> change does not occur. However, these changes might face

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some opposition from doctors who might argue that nurses handle less complex patients as compared to doctors because doctors handle complicated diagnostic problems, patients with chronic diseases, and unstable patients. Some might argue that nurses' care is cheaper because their care is not as good and they also have fewer years of education than doctors and that the extra cost of doctor care means better care (Bartol, 2016).

Advanced Practice (AP) registered nurses' role in chronic disease management access on primary care ensures the improvement of their practice with a new role. This is through providing patient-centered care in specialty care, acute care settings with special attention, education, training, and competencies. Inter-professional collaboration and teamwork between nurses and physicians are essential for improving patient outcomes and the quality of health services (Elsous & Mohsen, 2017). Affordable Care Act (ACA) made programs by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve quality care and reduce costs as well. Nurses are the people with special knowledge and skills and they provide coordinated and quality care. When nurses engage in health policy can fulfill the social and ethical responsibility of the profession.

Nurses have the moral and ethical responsibility with the advance in the health care system that needs policy change and adoption. Nurses shaping policy for safe, high-quality health care. American Nurses Association's code of ethics involved nurses in health policy formation, implementation, and modification. Nurses' leaders have a special role in policy about health care resources, planning, and regulations. Policy increase nurses' political skills make them future leaders. Nursing education includes policy education. American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) introduced health policy in the nursing curriculum. Health policy at the state and federal levels develop leadership skills that improve

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**political awareness** (Shalala et. al., 2011). It aids the development of skills in advocacy and analysis practice to improve quality care.

<sup>6</sup>  
References

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