



November 14, 2022

To the Medscape Editor:

The article "The NP Will See You Now: Clinic Staffed by Nurses Provides Primary Care" written by Risa Kerslake, RN, BS, was recently published in Medscape on September 23, 2022. The physician voices within this article, Dr. Kishlay Anand and Dr. Peter Hahn, do not accurately represent the voice and stance of our organizations, or we believe, family physicians throughout the United States.

Family medicine physicians are trained to look beyond symptoms to better understand how lifestyle and environmental factors impact a patient's wellbeing and chronic disease. Preventative and holistic health care is at the cornerstone of family medicine. Primary care physicians emphasize health promotion and prevention. We do not believe this was accurately described nor represented in the article by our physician colleagues. Moreover, the statements that Dr. Hahn made as detailed in the article, "NP's can optimize patient outcomes with fewer resources compared to a physician" were startling and offensive. We request the resource and citation that Dr. Hahn referenced to make this statement to Medscape and to the author of the article as we have not found this to be true in the past, nor do we predict it to be true in the future. As published in January 2022 in the Journal of the Mississippi State Medical Association, "Targeting Value-Based Care with Physician-led Care Teams", Batson, et al. examined Medicare beneficiary cost data and found that the care provided by nonphysician providers working on their own patient panels was more expensive than care delivered by physicians. Batson, et al. found patients did not receive equivalent value-based experiences within four sets of data: quality, cost, utilization, and patient experience.

Many healthcare professionals are aware of the training and educational differences between medical doctors, osteopathic and allopathic, as compared to their nurse practitioner counterparts. Moreover, the AANP as published in February 2019, opposed mandated residency and fellowship as a condition of licensure. For these reasons, we believe the standardization for nurse practitioners to practice at their highest skill level is in working collaborative agreements with primary care physicians. As family medicine physicians, we support collaborative work agreements with our nurse practitioner colleagues. We believe that it is our continued collaborative work together across the United States, rural and urban, to best address healthcare disparities and shortages. We see the most effective and safest care being delivered when our two professions work together for the greater good of patient care.

Sincerely,
Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Michigan Academy of Family Physicians

cc: Peter Y. Hahn, FCCP, FAASM, President and CEO, University of Michigan Health – West
Marschall S. Runge, MD, PHD, Acting Chair, UMHS Board