

CAN NURSES AND PARAMEDICS REPLACE R.M.O.S ?

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- ▣ **Since the days of Florence Nightingale, there has been a debate over which medical tasks a nurse should perform. Trained nurses offer primary care that appears to be just as good or better than what doctors can provide, say researchers**

- ▣ **A Paramedic is a highly trained and skilled medical professional who is educated to carry out some of the duties of a Physician. Paramedics can examine, evaluate and treat patients with equipment and medications usually only found in the emergency department of a hospital. Paramedics are typically utilized as emergency care practitioners on ambulances or on first response emergency vehicles but their scope is rapidly expanding to many other areas. Some of these include industry, elementary and high schools, colleges, hospitals, doctor's offices.**

- ▣ **Today's nurse practitioners say they are helping to fill the gap. And some advocates say they could do even more if laws limiting their scope of practice can be changed to give them more autonomy and allow them to provide more services.**

- ▣ **Nurse practitioners and other registered nurses with advanced degrees provide many of the same services as primary care doctors, from physical exams and ordering tests to health screenings and prescribing certain medications. They work in physician offices, outpatient clinics, rural care centres and other health-care settings.**

- ▣ **But opposition from the Medical Association and other physician groups could stand in their way.**

- ▣ **Nationally, advance practice nurses must have at least a master's degree and all graduate-level programs must be accredited and have a curriculum that meets national standards, as well as two years of clinical training, according to the White Paper.**

- ▣ **And evidence shows advanced practice nurses “are safe providers, provide quality care, are cost effective, and deliver a high degree of patient satisfaction, even in independent roles,” that paper reports.**
- ▣ **According to the Health Affairs research, a review of 26 studies found little difference in treatment practices, prescribing behaviour and patient health status between nurse practitioners and physicians.**
- ▣ **The research also revealed that patients of nurse practitioners were happier with their care.**

- ▣ **Studies show nurse practitioners do make appropriate referrals outside their practice limits. Furthermore, they can manage up to 90 percent of the patients in a primary care practice.**

- ▣ **According to the Health Affairs research, 18 states and the District of Columbia allow “nurse practitioners to diagnose and treat patients and prescribe medications without a physician’s involvement, while 32 states required physician involvement to diagnose and treat or prescribe medications, or both.”**

- **Data has shown that nurse practitioners provide good health care. A review of 118 published studies over 18 years comparing health outcomes and patient satisfaction at doctor-led and nurse practitioner-led clinics found the two groups to be equivalent on most outcomes. The nurses did better at controlling blood glucose and lipid levels, and on many aspects of birthing. There were no measures on which the nurses did worse.**

- ▣ **Nurse-led clinics can save money – but not always in the obvious way. Many are cheaper than comparable physician-led clinics.**
- ▣ **Research also shows ANPs are more cost effective, have greater patient satisfaction, and better outcomes including less hospitalization for chronic CHF, DM, and COPD...**

- ▣ **Is there a difference between a nurse and a physician? More specifically, can advanced registered nurse practitioners replace General Practitioners in the independent practice of medicine?**
- ▣ **Or should they?**

- ▣ **The difference between a nurse and a doctor is that a doctor diagnoses illnesses in patients while a nurse diagnoses the human reaction to the illness.**

- ▣ **As a nurse, you will mostly be assessing the patient (making sure they are ok, documenting any changes). As a doctor, you will simply tell others what the patient has and what the patient needs. As a nurse, you will certainly have more 1 on 1 time with the patient and establish a relationship with your patient whereas a doctor will spend little time with his/her patient.**

- ▣ **A doctor dedicates a lot of time in his/her profession, but a nurse does not spend as much time in school, at work, etc.... Medical school is much harder to get into. It is up to you what you want to do.**

- ▣ **Nurses who went on to become doctors, they become better doctors in the long run because they are well practiced in patient care, and know how to really listen to patients. Because nurses are at the hospital patient bedside 24/7, they can catch any problems the patient is having and therefore alert the doctor.**

- ▣ **Physicians are often pressured to see a very large number of patients in a short time-lingering with a patient is punished in subtle and not so subtle ways. NPs are kind of into woo, too like healing touch, spirituality, etc.**
- ▣ **Theoretically, PA's are trained in the medical model - which means they are supposed to approach a problem using a similar mindset, which must be taught.**

- ▣ **The take home message is primary care is still dying, and it will not be quickly saved by any medical group, because primary care is losing its way as a profession - its allure, respect, fun are faded; and most importantly it is not as lucrative as the other branches of medicine. For Nurses the future is either working for large corporations or capitalism's newest medical child - retainer based practices - a new era to start.**

- ▣ **Earlier some countries prepared nurses as**
- ▣ **Physician Assistants**
- ▣ **Surgeon Assistants**

HOWEVER.....

Nurses Can't Legally Do Dr's Jobs.....

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THANK YOU