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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Ms. Ann Steffanic  
PA State board of nursing  
PO box 2469  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Ms. Steffanic:

The efforts of the AMA to suppress the professional practice activities of some of the finest, most educated and disciplined nurses with whom I've had the privilege of practicing the art and science of nursing has puzzled and outraged me.

It would appear that our physician colleagues have no reservation about permitting Physician Assistants to practice well beyond what I consider their scope of practice; to call pharmacists, dentists, chiropractors, and psychologists "doctor" but cringe at sharing the title with doctorally prepared nurses.

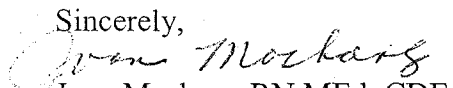
Dentists prescribe narcotics with minimal knowledge of potential drug interactions; Physician assistants play doctor in ER's without the level of academic and clinical experience accomplishments of most Bachelor prepared nurses. Masters prepared nurses have the education and dedication required to practice their profession in a competent, holistic framework. It would appear that our physician colleagues will only endorse the practice of those groups over which they have complete certification control. They need not feel threatened.

Nurse practitioners are proud to be nurses; they are eager to provide service to many patients that most physicians choose to ignore. They do not consider patient education and prevention skills to be inferior to treatment skills. If they or clinical nurse specialists wished to be physicians, they have the intelligence to do so but have chosen a profession that places a heavy emphasis on "care" as well as "cure".

The literature is rich with studies demonstrating the positive outcome of nurse run clinics vs. physician managed care. As a diabetes clinical nurse specialist, I teach physicians how to treat patients with diabetes. Many of whom are reluctant to admit how little they know about diabetes self-management skills. The nurse practitioners as well as the physicians at this University Hospital interact with the clinical nurse specialists on issues of wound care, oncology, sickle cell disease and diabetes to name a few specialties. They in turn share their expertise with all of us-in the classroom and at the bedside.

The AMA needs to act from a position of informed knowledge not from unsubstantiated concerns of "inferior" care by nurse practitioners. There is room for all of us who are committed to superior patient care.

Sincerely,

  
Joan Moshang RN, MEd., CDE