Scope of Practice in the United States

World Health Professions Conference on Regulation

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AMA founded in 1847

Journal of the American Medical Association

- Founded in 1883
- Distributed to more than 100 countries
- Receives more than 1.5 million “hits” each week

Flexner report transformed medical education in the United States

U.S. Medical care highly regulated

- Medical students take rigorous 3-part medical licensing exam (USMLE)
- International medical graduates must pass USMLE and complete U.S. residency training
- MDs and DOs governed by medical practice acts of each of the 50 states

Medical Doctor?
Who do U.S. patients believe is a medical doctor?

- 67% podiatrist
- 54% optometrist
- 49% psychologist
- 38% chiropractor
- 38% "doctor" of nursing

Expanding scope of practice

- Depending on the state:
  - Nurses prescribe legend drugs and independently do interventional pain management procedures
  - Podiatrists do surgery on the leg and amputate below the knee
  - Optometrists do surgery on the eye and prescribe oral medications

Expanding scope of practice

- In 2009, the AMA tracked more than 300 separate pieces of state legislation by non-physicians to increase their scope of practice
- In 2010, we expect a similar number of attempts

Scope of Practice Partnership (SOPP)

- Formed in 2006
  - 49 state medical associations + D.C.
  - 14 national medical specialty societies
  - AMA & AOA (plus 20 state osteopathic associations)
- Legislative, regulatory and legal arenas
- State and federal agenda

Scope of Practice Partnership (SOPP)

- Major projects
  - SOPP Truth in Advertising (TIA) campaign
  - AMA Scope of Practice Data Series
  - AMA GeoMapping Initiative

SOPP Truth in Advertising Campaign

- Purpose: Create transparency & reduce public confusion
- Goal: Support legislation throughout U.S.

www.ama-assn.org/go/sop
SOPP Truth in Advertising Campaign

- DNP = Doctor of Nursing
- Au.D. = Doctor of Audiology
- N.D. = Doctor of Naturopathy
- Psy.D. = Doctor of Psychology
- O.D. = Doctor of Optometry
- D.C. = Doctor of Chiropractic

Requires all health care professionals to state their type of professional training and licensure.
Helps patients clearly see who is providing care.

AMA Scope of Practice Data Series

Available modules:
- Audiologists
- Naturopaths
- Nurse Anesthetists
- Nurse Practitioners
- Optometrists
- Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons
- Pharmacists
- Physical Therapists
- Podiatrists
- Psychologists

Scope of Practice Data Series

Refutes False Claims
Nurse anesthetists claim that there is little significant difference in the education and training between them and anesthesiologists.

Average nurse anesthetist training: 2.3 - 3 years
Average anesthesia physician training: 8+ years

Source: AMA Scope of Practice Data Series
AMA GeoMapping Initiative

Claim:
• Nurse anesthetists claim that “nurse anesthesia predominates” in rural areas and where seniors live.


AMA Geographic Mapping Initiative

Primary Care Physicians and Psychiatrists (MDs/DOs)

Psychologists

AMA Geographic Mapping Initiative

Available maps include:
• APRNs
• CRNAs
• Nurse midwives
• Optometrists
• Podiatrists
• Psychologists
• Audiologists
• Naturopaths
• Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons
• Physical Therapists

AMA Geographic Mapping Initiative

Where do Colorado primary care physicians and psychiatrists and psychologists practice?

AMA Geographic Mapping Initiative

Regulatory challenges
• The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) defines “physician” very broadly
• The Joint Commission tends follows the CMS definition

AMA Geographic Mapping Initiative

Truth in Advertising

AMA geomapping initiative shows that anesthesiologists, pain management physicians and nurse anesthetists tend to practice in the same large, urban areas.

Source: www.ama-assn.org/go/geomaps
CMS definition of physician

- CMS defines “physician” broadly for the purposes of reimbursement
  - doctor of medicine or osteopathy
  - doctor of dental surgery or of dental medicine
  - doctor of podiatric medicine
  - doctor of optometry
  - chiropractor

The Joint Commission

- The Joint Commission accredits majority of U.S. hospitals
- Decided in June 2009 to define physician the “same” as CMS
  - But → The Joint Commission did not specify “for reimbursement purposes only”

Team-based health care

- Everyone on the health care team is needed
- Teams work best when all professions practice at the optimal level of their training and experience
- We all have roles to play

Challenges for the future

- Inter-professional training is essential
- Maintenance of licensure
- Maintenance of certification
- Re-entry and re-training