

**Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians
2015 General Assembly**

RESOLUTION NO. 8

Nurse Practitioners

Submitted by: LAFP Board of Directors

WHEREAS, patient safety and well-being are the most important considerations in the promotion of proper health care; and

WHEREAS, physicians have the most experience and are also the most responsible and carry the highest potential liability in caring for a sick patient; and

WHEREAS, this responsibility falls on physicians because they receive more education, training, and complete more patient hours than any other health care provider; and

WHEREAS, physicians have the authority under Louisiana law to properly manage physician extenders –advanced nurse practitioners through collaboration – to increase patient access to health care; and

WHEREAS, physicians have the authority to collaborate with advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and, ultimately, bear the liability of that collaboration if there is a negative occurrence; and

WHEREAS, NPs remain important contributors to the primary care workforce and are an important part of the team-based approach within the Patient-Centered Medical Home model of care, and

WHEREAS, primary care nurse practitioners should be practicing in integrated practices with primary care physician-led teams utilizing the Patient-Centered Medical Home model, and

WHEREAS, full practice authority granted to a nurse with limited education, training, and experience would compromise patient’s safety and treatment; and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Nurse Practitioners is encouraging a national adoption of policy that would grant APRNs full practice authority even though their level of education does not rise to the level of a physician’s education; and

WHEREAS, full practice authority for nurses would allow advanced nurse practitioners to evaluate patients, diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, initiate and manage treatments, including scheduled medications under the exclusive licensure authority of the State Board of Nursing without medical oversight. And the Louisiana State Board of Medical

46 Examiners (LSBME) has no authority to discipline the medical management of an APRN's medical
47 care of a patient, only the collaborating physician if involved in said care; and

48

49 **WHEREAS**, these exact same duties are delegated to another esteemed group of physician
50 extenders – physician assistants, who are successfully and timely served through the LSBME;
51 and

52

53 **WHEREAS**, this lack of proper oversight of APRNs is a direct threat to the patients of Louisiana;
54 and

55

56 **WHEREAS**, our state legislators are currently entertaining the option of granting full autonomy
57 to APRNs to alleviate the health care shortage in rural areas; now therefore be it

58

59 **RESOLVED**, that advanced nurse practitioners should continue their collaborative agreements
60 with physicians and not be granted full license authority for the reasons given above; and be it
61 further

62

63 **RESOLVED**, that in the interest to maintain the highest quality of care and to maintain the
64 highest quality of medical standards to Louisiana patients, the LAFP adopt the policy that states
65 "a nurse practitioner should only function in an integrated practice arrangement under the
66 direction and responsible supervision of a practicing, licensed physician. In no instance may
67 duties be delegated to a nurse practitioner for which the supervising physician does not have
68 the appropriate training, experience and demonstrated competence."

69

70 **Background Information**

71 **AAFP Policy**

72

73 The AAFP position is that the term "nurse practitioner" should be reserved for those who
74 undergo specific training programs following attainment of a Registered Nurse (R.N.) license.
75 Following licensure as an R.N., the nurse desiring to function as a nurse practitioner should be
76 certified rather than licensed as a nurse practitioner.

77

78 The nurse practitioner should not function as an independent health practitioner. The AAFP
79 position is that the nurse practitioner should only function in an integrated practice
80 arrangement under the direction and responsible supervision of a practicing, licensed physician.
81 In no instance may duties be delegated to a nurse practitioner for which the supervising
82 physician does not have the appropriate training, experience and demonstrated competence.

83

84 The AAFP position is that the training programs preparing nurse practitioners, like the training
85 for all other health care providers, should be constantly monitored to assure the quality of
86 training provided and that the number of graduates reflects demonstrated needs.

87 The AAFP supports the concept of patient and third-party payment for services of nurse
88 practitioners only where services are provided in an integrated practice arrangement.

89

90 (1984)

91 (2014 COD)