Assistant Physicians: An Untapped Healthcare Workforce or the “JV Squad”? 

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Health Policy Fellowship 2015
Access to Care

• Critical need in spite of ACA implementation
• Each state has Underserved Populations/Geography
• Annually Med School Grads are UNABLE to secure Residency Training position
2015 Main Residency Match

30,212 Positions
99.4% Position Fill Rate

34,905 Applicants
Submitted Preference Lists

U.S. Allopathic Seniors: 93.9%
Match rate for seniors

78% % of matched seniors who got one of top 3 choices

U.S. Allopathic Seniors (93.9% match rate)
U.S. Allopathic Graduates (43.6% match rate)
U.S. Osteopathic Students & Graduates (79.3% match rate)
U.S. Citizen IMGs (53.1% match rate)
Non-U.S. Citizen IMGs (49.4% match rate)
Disruptive Innovation?

- What is an “ASSISTANT PHYSICIAN”
- IMPACT on ACCESS ....... potential
- IMPACT on QUALITY ....... What is being said?
- IMPACT on COST ..... Projections
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE NO. 2 FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 716
97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2014

AN ACT

1 sections 174.335, 195.070, 334.035, 334.735, 338.010, 376.167, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof sixteen new sections relating to public health.

Passed by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

## Medical Professionals in Missouri

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Type</th>
<th>Attended Medical School</th>
<th>Residency Required</th>
<th>Can be called Dr.</th>
<th>Position is permanent</th>
<th>School (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Practice Nurse</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>6 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>6 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Physician</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8 minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Doctor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Residency experience

- Not clearly defined in legislation
MO Assistant Physician (AP) Rules

- Med School Grad (MD or DO)
- Passed Parts 1 & 2 of USMLE or COMLEX
- Limited to PRIMARY CARE in Underserved Area after 30 days of supervision
- May use term “Doctor”
- Collaborative Practice Arrangement
  - Geographic Proximity
  - 10% to 20% of Charts Reviewed every 2 weeks
No universally accepted definition of what primary care is or who provides it.\textsuperscript{6}
What is a HPSA?

- Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA): federal designation that indicates a shortage of personal health services in a defined area.

- 3 designation disciplines
  - Primary Care
  - Mental Health
  - Dental

- 2 types of designations
  - Geographic: Insufficient number of providers to serve the *total* population in a defined area
  - Population: Insufficient number of providers to serve a *specific* population (e.g. low-income, homeless, etc.) in a defined area
Primary Care HPSA – 2014
Primary Care – HPSA

Missouri = 213 $^9$

California = 565 $^{10}$
Stakeholders in AP Models

• State (and Federal) elected officials and administrators \(^{11,12}\)
• Patients, families, communities in need
• All health care providers
• Medical education systems (UME & GME) \(^{13}\)
• Medical students
• Physician regulatory agencies \(^{14}\)
Consequences

- Underprepared Physicians
- Patient Confusion
- System Confusion
- No record of improving access or managing cost
- Potential for perverse impact on Medically Underserved Area
Legislative Status of AP

• MO Board of Healing Arts – Public Comment period for AP rules open thru Sept 27, 2015

• Arkansas (HB 1162) – “Graduate Registered Physicians”

• Oklahoma (SB 712) – “Training Physicians”
Figure 2

Nurse Practitioner State Practice Environment, 2014

- Full Practice (20 states, including DC)
- Reduced Practice (19 states)
- Restricted Practice (12 states)

SOURCE: American Association of Nurse Practitioners, 2014
Exhibit 4. Physician Views Are More Negative Than Positive on Increased Reliance on Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants

Do you think the increased reliance on nonphysician clinicians such as nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) is having a positive, negative, or no impact on primary care providers’ ability to provide quality care to their patients?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>No impact</th>
<th>Positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Among those with any NP/PA in practice</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Among those with no NP/PAs in practice</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nurse practitioners/Physician assistants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>No impact</th>
<th>Positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Commonwealth Fund/Kaiser Family Foundation 2015 National Survey of Primary Care Providers.
Recommendations

- Reboot DoD GMO model or 12 month “Internship” Physician model widely
- Incentivize Primary Care practice in HPSA/MUA/P
- > Non – physician providers scope of practice
- Further development of AP models in states should be suspended to evaluate outcomes in MO, AR, OK
As to diseases,
Make a habit of
two things –
To help,
Or at least,
To do NO harm.
Notes

7. http://www.slideshare.net/GingerPierce/hpsa-presentation-for-bod-meeting-112014
9. http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/DataDownload/MapToolPrint/94e274ca-a0b4-4e47-beee-38fc0db4897e.png
10. http://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/DataDownload/MapToolPrint/085b3bbe-3757-4fe8-add5-7e0f7fe0fb6f.png
Notes (cont.)


12 Keith Frederick.


15 http://www.pr.mo.gov/healingarts.asp

Notes (cont.)

17  https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/8682-figure-2.png