

Review of: "Implementing Task Substitution for Doctors and Nurses as a Key Element of Healthcare Reform"

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As a researcher analyzing the role of nurses, particularly Advanced Nursing Practitioners (ANPs), in independently managing patients in primary care settings, several research gaps emerge from the current literature:

Comparative Effectiveness of Nurse-Led Care vs. Physician-Led Care: While there is some data on the roles of ANPs in primary care, comparative studies that focus on patient outcomes, cost-effectiveness, and patient satisfaction between nurse-led and physician-led care are limited. Further research is required to evaluate these aspects comprehensively.

Global Variability in Scope of Practice: Although countries like the USA, Canada, and Australia have integrated advanced nursing roles into their healthcare systems, there is a lack of research comparing how different healthcare policies, regulatory frameworks, and cultural attitudes towards healthcare professionals influence the scope of practice and patient outcomes globally.

Long-Term Impact on Healthcare Systems: There is a gap in longitudinal studies assessing the long-term impact of expanding the role of nurses on healthcare systems, such as the sustainability of nurse-led models of care and their effect on healthcare delivery, patient outcomes, and the reduction of physician shortages.

Barriers to Full Autonomy for Nurses: Though some countries have moved toward granting nurses more autonomy, there is little research on the barriers that remain in regions where nurses still work under strict supervision. Identifying these structural, regulatory, or cultural barriers is crucial to addressing workforce shortages.

Specialized Training and Education Gaps: Although ANP education has been addressed in various countries, research on whether the existing nursing education system adequately prepares ANPs for independent practice is sparse. Specific studies on how ANP training can be improved or standardized across countries would be beneficial.

Mental Health and Palliative Care Roles: The role of nurses in managing mental health and palliative care is an emerging area of interest. Research into how nurses in these fields can fill gaps left by physicians in underserved areas and how task substitution can improve care for patients with chronic or end-of-life conditions remains underexplored.

Patient Perception and Trust: Research on patient perception and trust in nurse-led care, especially in regions where traditional doctor-led care is the norm, is limited. Understanding how patients view the competency and authority of nurses is essential for implementing broader nurse-led care.

These research gaps provide opportunities for future studies to assess the expanding role of nurses and ANPs in healthcare systems, contributing to improving care delivery models, especially in primary care settings.

The implementation of Advanced Nursing Practice (ANP) is a pivotal strategy for addressing the challenges posed by the ongoing shortage of both doctors and nurses within healthcare systems. The analysis of international experiences and local initiatives highlights several key benefits associated with expanding the roles of nurses.