

Peer Review

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

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This review article presents a comprehensive and policy-relevant overview of task substitution between physicians and nurses, with particular emphasis on the role of Advanced Nursing Practitioners (ANPs) as a strategy to mitigate global healthcare workforce shortages. The manuscript's major strength lies in its broad comparative perspective, integrating examples from multiple healthcare systems and highlighting the potential applicability of advanced nursing practice within the Polish healthcare reform context. The inclusion of practical implementation experiences and detailed descriptions of ANP roles across clinical settings enhances the manuscript's real-world relevance. Additionally, the discussion appropriately recognizes the importance of educational reform, interdisciplinary collaboration, and pilot implementation models in supporting healthcare transformation. However, several methodological and conceptual limitations require clarification. As a review article, the manuscript lacks a clearly defined systematic search strategy, inclusion criteria justification, and quality appraisal of referenced studies, which may introduce selection bias and limit reproducibility. Furthermore, while the article strongly advocates for task substitution, it provides limited critical discussion of potential challenges, including regulatory barriers, professional resistance, medico-legal accountability, and variations in clinical competency frameworks across jurisdictions. The manuscript would also benefit from stronger quantitative evidence regarding patient safety outcomes, cost-effectiveness, and long-term healthcare system impacts associated with ANP implementation. Expanding the discussion to include interprofessional collaboration models rather than substitution alone may offer a more balanced and contemporary perspective. Overall, the article offers valuable insights into advanced nursing practice as a healthcare reform strategy but would be strengthened by enhanced methodological transparency and a more critical evaluation of implementation challenges.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.