



**American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties**

**Health Care Reform**

As the topic of Health Care Reform unfolds in the new administration, it is important that nurse practitioners be recognized and included in the reform process and plans that are developed. It is our recommendation that the IOM definition of primary care (“the provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients and practicing in the context of family and community”) be utilized in the development of health care reform agendas and that nurse practitioners be recognized as primary care providers within that framework.

Approximately 80 percent of nurse practitioners provide primary care services throughout the United States. In fact, according to the MedPAC report presented at its spring meeting, nurse practitioners provided the highest percentage of primary care visits compared to other Part B providers in the Medicare fee-for-service. Care provided by nurse practitioners epitomizes the delivery of high quality, cost-effective primary care and meets the NCQA and MedPAC standards of care for such entities as the Primary Care Medical Home.

It is our recommendation that:

- health care reform in this country include the recognition and utilization of nurse practitioners as primary care providers,
- the IOM definition of primary care be used in all proposed legislation and regulation pertaining to the provision of primary care,
- special attention be paid to safety net providers who provide care for patients who would not otherwise have access to care,
- emphasis be placed on prevention and management of chronic diseases, and
- nurse practitioners be included in the design and development of all health care reform models.

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