

# “Common Sense” Provisions for Health Care Reform Legislation



Nurse practitioners are safe, cost effective health care providers with a proven track record of providing high quality primary care to patients in both rural and urban settings in all walks of life. Nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner practices need to be included in all health care models developed and/or funded by the federal government.

**To this end, health care reform legislation should:**

- **Include nurse practitioners in the definitions of primary care providers in reimbursement packages, pilots, demonstration projects and stimulus packages that may move forward in Health Care Legislation;**
- **Recognize nurse practitioner led practices as: “medical homes”, “advanced primary care practices”; “independence at home” practices; community based primary care clinics and accountable care organizations;**
- **Include funding for the operation of nurse practitioner run clinics such as nurse managed clinics and school based clinics;**
- **Include funding for the educational preparation of nurse practitioners;**
- **Prevent discrimination against classes of providers such as nurse practitioners;**
- **Remove obstructive provisions that create new barriers to nurse practitioner practice including: the requirement for physician face to face encounters and documentation for ordering Medicare services such as durable medical equipment (which nurse practitioners have been ordering under current statute and regulation since 1997) that hinder the cost effective use of nurse practitioners;**
- **Include provisions to facilitate health promotion and disease prevention in health care provided by nurse practitioners;**
- **Include provisions to facilitate the management of chronic illness by nurse practitioners.**

Nurse practitioners are ready and willing to help shoulder the burden of meeting the unmet health care needs in this country. To utilize nurse practitioners to their fullest potential, any health care reform measures that move forward need to include and recognize nurse practitioners as described in the above listed provisions.