

## Sigma Theta Tau International's 29th International Nursing Research Congress

### Barriers and Facilitators for Implementing the Nurse Practitioners Full Prescriptive Authority: A Systematic Literature Review

Mercy Mumba, PhD, RN, CMSRN

Capstone College of Nursing, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, USA

**Madeleine Kathleen Boyle, SN**

Capstone College of Nursing, University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing, Acworth, GA, USA

#### Significance and Background

In 2008, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) in conjunction with the Advanced Practice Nursing Consensus Work Group released the *Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, and Education*. The purpose of this consensus model was to standardize regulation of APRN roles. One of the recommendations in this consensus model was the transition of APRNs to independent practice (full prescriptive authority). The governing bodies also gave timelines for completion and incorporation of their recommendations into practice. Although many recommendations were made, no specifics were provided on how individual states and organizations should meet these requirements. Many states and organizations have therefore been left with the burden of figuring out how to implement these recommendations. As we know, change is not easy, and in order for change to produce the desired results, it has to be implemented in a way that addresses all stakeholder concerns. As the VA transition to APRN independent practice, no specific guidelines exist that will guide this transition. Thus, the purpose of this study is to use focus groups to understand the barriers and facilitators in implementing APRN full prescriptive authority in VA facilities and to develop a policy to address the same.

#### Research Questions

1. What are the barriers and facilitators of NP achieving their full prescriptive authority?
2. How has implementation of NP prescriptive authority been done?
3. Specifically for Psychiatric Mental Health NPs, how does full prescriptive authority affect them considering a significant number of medications they prescribe are still controlled substances?

#### Methods

This is a systematic review of literature. All articles related to the three research questions and written between 2014 and 2017 will be of interest. Using the PRISMA method and checklist, a systematic review will be written to help evaluate the existing knowledge on the subject and identify a need for a new study. Research databases used include CINAHL, PubMed, Psych Infor and Google Scholar. Key words include APRN full prescriptive authority, barriers and facilitators, and psychiatric mental health NP. Search words include non-medical prescribing, nurse practitioner full prescriptive authority, implementation of non-medical prescribing, APRN barriers to prescription, implementation of APRN prescribing, and Psychiatric NP prescriptive authority. The initial literature search yielded 30 articles. After careful consideration, 18 articles that met the inclusion criteria for the study were chosen. These were examined for significance and relevance to topic.

#### Results

There is a large amount of literature on the feelings of patients related to care provided by NPs. Some literature exists about the barriers and facilitators of NP achieving their full potential. Most of these research articles are done using qualitative methods. There is a lack of concrete descriptions regarding how the implementation of NP prescriptive authority has been done, but there are studies describing the feelings and questions of other members of multidisciplinary teams. No articles were found talking directly

about Psychiatric Mental Health NPs. This indicates a need for more research to be carried out on this subject.

#### Conclusion

- we need more regulation related to implementation
- need policy and procedure across board
- need recommendations related to educational requirements for full practice authority
- need a collaborative model that includes all stakeholders such as APRN, administrators, physicians, and staff nurses to address the implementation of full prescriptive

#### Implications for Practice

This information will be used as a basis to propose a research study related to understanding barriers and facilitators of APRN full prescriptive authority that is interdisciplinary in nature and takes into account stakeholder concerns and will eventually lead to a policy/procedure recommendation on how this can be achieved in various practice settings.

---

#### Title:

Barriers and Facilitators for Implementing the Nurse Practitioners Full Prescriptive Authority: A Systematic Literature Review

#### Keywords:

APRN full prescriptive authority, barriers and facilitators and psychiatric mental health NP

#### References:

- Afseth, J. D., & Paterson, R. E. (2017). The views of non-medical prescribing students and medical mentors on interprofessional competency assessment - A qualitative exploration. *Nurse Education Today*, 52(103-108). doi:10.1016/j.nedt.2017.02.022
- Alton, S., March, A. L., Mallary, L., & Fandt, K. (2015). Medication adherence in a nurse practitioner managed clinic for indigent patients. *Journal Of The American Association Of Nurse Practitioners*, 27(8), 433-440. doi:10.1002/2327-6924.12211
- Cowley, A., Cooper, J., & Goldberg, S. (2016). Experiences of the advanced nurse practitioner role in acute care. *Nursing Older People (2014+)*, 28(4), 31. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.7748/nop.28.4.31.s23
- Gerard, K., Tinelli, M., Latter, S., Smith, A., & Blenkinsopp, A. (2015). Patients' valuation of the prescribing nurse in primary care: a discrete choice experiment. *Health Expectations*, (6), 2223. doi:10.1111/hex.12193
- Kraus, E., DuBois, J., & DuBois, J. M. (2017). Knowing Your Limits: A Qualitative Study of Physician and Nurse Practitioner Perspectives on NP Independence in Primary Care. *JGIM: Journal Of General Internal Medicine*, 32(3), 284-290. doi:10.1007/s11606-016-3896-7
- Li-Chun, L., Sheuan, L., Wen-Neng Ueng, S., & Woung-Ru, T. (2016). Reliability and validity of the Nurse Practitioners' Roles and Competencies Scale. *Journal Of Clinical Nursing*, 25(1/2), 99-108. doi:10.1111/jocn.13001

Lim, A. G., North, N., & Shaw, J. (2017). Clinical education: Navigating professional and prescribing boundaries: Implementing nurse prescribing in New Zealand. *Nurse Education In Practice*, 271-6. doi:10.1016/j.nepr.2017.08.009

Marcum, Z. A., Bellon, J. E., Jie, L., Gellad, W. F., Donohue, J. M., & Li, J. (2016). New chronic disease medication prescribing by nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and primary care physicians: a cohort study. *BMC Health Services Research*, 161-8. doi:10.1186/s12913-016-1569-1

Petersen, P. A., Keller, T., Way, S. M., & Borges, W. J. (2015). Autonomy and empowerment in advanced practice registered nurses: Lessons from New Mexico. *Journal Of The American Association Of Nurse Practitioners*, 27(7), 363-370. doi:10.1002/2327-6924.12202

Tranmer, J. E., Colley, L., Edge, D. S., Sears, K., VanDenKerkhof, E., & Levesque, L. (2015). Trends in nurse practitioners' prescribing to older adults in Ontario, 2000-2010: a retrospective cohort study. *CMAJ Open*, 3(3), E299-E304. doi:10.9778/cmajo.20150029

### **Abstract Summary:**

A systematic review of literature was conducted to evaluate the barriers and facilitators of Nurse Practitioners achieving full prescriptive authority. Mental Health Nurse Practitioners were the focus of this research, however, very little information was obtained.

### **Content Outline:**

Introduction:

- a. discussion of APRN consensus model requirements
- b. current implementation phases

Body

- a. current literature addressing consensus model
- b. some of the barriers and facilitators of APRN full practice
- c. specific consideration for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP)

Literature Review PRISMA Model

- a. databases searched included CINHALL, PubMed, Psych Info and Google Scholar
- b. number of articles retrieve: 30
- c. inclusion and exclusion criteria for study
- d. final sample size of 18

Findings

- a. laws and regulations are the largest barriers
- b. not much difference in primary care
- c. more clarification of collaborative role moving forward
- d. very little knowledge with PMHNP and not enough information related to practice in the USA

Conclusion

- a. we need more regulation related to implementation
- b. need policy and procedure across board
- c. need recommendations related to educational requirements for full practice authority

- d. need a collaborative model that includes all stakeholders such as APRN, administrators, physicians, and staff nurses to address the implementation of full prescriptive authority.

First Secondary Presenting Author

***Corresponding Secondary Presenting Author***

Mercy Mumba, PhD, RN, CMSRN  
University of Alabama  
Capstone College of Nursing  
Assistant Professor - Tenure Track  
Tuscaloosa AL  
USA

**Professional Experience:** Mercy Mumba, PhD, RN, CMSRN: Dr. Mercy Mumba is an Assistant Professor in the Capstone College of Nursing. She graduated with her Honors Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing and Health Innovation in 2010. She is a certified Medical Surgical Registered Nurse and graduated with her PhD in Nursing in 2016. Dr. Mumba has an extensive clinical background, both in acute care and long-term care. Her experience in academia includes lecture experiences and clinical supervision of students. Her academic areas of expertise include holistic health assessment, fundamentals of nursing, and nursing research. Dr. Mumba has won several notable award including the Rising Star Award from Nurses.Com in their Giving Excellence Meaning awards. She is a recipient of many scholarships and fellowships from the University of Texas at Arlington, Texas Health Resources, and Sigma Theta Tau International.

**Author Summary:** Dr. Mumba is an innovative researcher who is well versed in both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. Her primary research area of focus is substance abuse among nurses and their psychosocial wellbeing. Dr. Mumba has further conducted several studies involving improving patient satisfaction in acute care setting. She is a published author and has presented her research at many local, regional, and international research conferences.

Second Primary Presenting Author

***Primary Presenting Author***

Madeleine Kathleen Boyle, SN  
University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing  
Capstone College of Nursing  
Student Nurse (Honors BSN program)  
Acworth GA  
USA

**Professional Experience:** Student nurse going through BSN program at the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing. Expected graduation date December of 2018. I did this project as part of my honors Evidence-Based Practice in collaboration with Dr. Mumba who is my mentor. We are currently working on a grant to conduct this study focusing on barriers and facilitators of APRN full prescriptive authority.

**Author Summary:** Student at the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing. This literature review was completed with my research mentor Dr. Mumba as part of an honors Evidence-Based Practice course.