AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION RESIDENT AND FELLOW SECTION

Resolution: 4
(I-21)

Introduced by: Gunjan Malhotra, MD; Benjamin Meyer, MD

Subject: Shortage of Bedside Nurses, Nurse Practitioner “Diploma Mills” and the Effects on Patient Safety and Quality Care

Referred to: Reference Committee

Whereas, There is a shortage of bedside nurses, putting patients at risk; and

Whereas, The quantity of nurse staffing is approximately 24% below an adequate level, according to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations¹; and

Whereas, The transition of nurses to nurse practitioners and the resulting lack of nursing faculty choosing to teach in nursing schools has contributed to a bedside nursing shortage of 80,000 and the rejection of 75,000 nursing school applicants¹²; and

Whereas, There are ongoing efforts by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties to convert Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degrees into Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees (DNP), many of which are online programs without standardization and well-delineated curriculum requirements⁵; and

Whereas, From 2010-2017, the number of practicing nurse practitioners (NPs) grew from 91,000 to 190,000 while the physician shortage in the United States is currently approximately 91,500, according to a recent study²³; and

Whereas, During the COVID-19 pandemic, rather than help in areas of need as trained bedside nurses, nurse practitioners lobbied state governors for independent practice while hospitals asked physicians in training to learn and take on the duty of bedside nurses¹⁴; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our AMA create a national campaign aimed at educating the population and state legislatures about the shortage of bedside nurses resulting from the push to create more nurse practitioners by “diploma mills”; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA oppose the expansion of nurse practitioner educational programs at the cost of exacerbating a shortage of bedside nurses and diverting resources from physician education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA work with relevant stakeholders to push for standardized in-person clinical training in current nurse practitioner programs to curtail the poor training practices of nurse practitioner “diploma mills.”

Fiscal Note:

References:
5. NP to DNP: In Less Than 10 Years, All Nurse Practitioners May Need to Hold a DNP - Regis College Online

Relevant AMA Policy: