Affordable Care Act and the Future of Nursing

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Affordable Care Act Goals

• Achieve universal access

• Bring health care cost under control

• Improve health care quality
Currently In New Mexico

- 32 of 33 counties are considered Health Provider Shortage Areas or Medically Underserved Areas
- Current primary care provider shortage = 400
- 48% of physicians practice in Bernalillo County which has 31% of the population
Currently in the US

- Fewer medical residents choose internal and family medicine
- By 2020, the US will face a shortage of more than 45,000 primary care providers
- An additional 32 million patients will have access to primary care with full implementation of the ACA
Nurse Practitioners in Primary Care

- Nurse Practitioners have been utilized to deliver primary care for over 5 decades.
- Studies consistently show quality of care NPs provide yields equivalent outcomes to those of physicians.
- Collaborative care yields better patient outcomes.
What is a Nurse Practitioner?

• A nurse practitioner (NP) is a licensed registered nurse (RN) who has had advanced education at the graduate level

• Practicing NPs have a master's or doctoral degree** and national certification in their area of specialty

• Specialty areas: Family Practice, Adult Health, Psych/Mental Health, Women’s Health, Pediatrics
Nurse Practitioners and the ACA

- 65% are employed in Primary Care
- 800 practicing in New Mexico
- Majority of NPs in NM practice in rural areas
- NP workforce is predicted to grow 130% by 2025
- Increase in demand for NP programs
- 15,000 qualified applicants turned away from graduate nursing programs
Institute of Medicine 2010: The Future of Nursing

• Nurses should practice the full extent of their education and training

• Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless progression

• Nurses should be full partners with physicians and other health care professionals in redesigning health care in the US
Nurse Practitioners and the ACA

• Considerations:
  – Regulatory
  – Education
  – Financial/Reimbursement
  – Organizational
  – Professional Attitudes
“Unless we are making progress in our nursing every year, every month, every week, take my word for it we are going back.”

Florence Nightingale