



*Protecting Healthcare Quality, Access and Choice of Providers*

June 12, 2015

Kim A. Williams, Sr, MD, FACC  
President  
American College of Cardiology  
2400 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Dr. Williams,

The member organizations of the Coalition for Patients' Rights (CPR) commends your organization's May 2015 health policy statement published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) – *2015 ACC Health Policy Statement on Cardiovascular Team-Based Care and the Role of Advanced Practice Providers*. This effort demonstrates a commitment by ACC to promote access and choice in healthcare. It is imperative that all professional organizations contribute to an environment where patients are able to select the quality healthcare professionals who best meet their needs.

We applaud your stance on healthcare team leadership in Section 3.1, specifically that team-care leaders “should be flexible, reflecting the specific needs of the patient at a particular time and setting... a nurse or a pharmacist may lead a team that organizes a chronic anticoagulation clinic; and an APRN or PA may lead a team that coordinates transitions of care. The leader should be the team member with the greatest knowledge and experience and the best qualifications for the leadership task at hand.” With reference to this and Section 3.2, CPR encourages recognition that each member of the care team is accountable for his or her own practice.

The CPR is a national multidisciplinary coalition of more than 35 health professional organizations representing more than 3.5 million licensed and certified healthcare professionals committed to ensuring comprehensive healthcare choices for all patients. As the U.S. population ages and healthcare needs shift and expand, healthcare professionals such as those represented by our professional organizations should be supported in practicing to the fullest extent of their education, training and licensure to meet the demand for services. Further, as millions of people continue to gain access to health coverage through the Affordable Care Act, it is critical to ensure that every qualified health professional can provide care to the full scope of their expertise. We recognize your organization's efforts to ensure full and direct access to appropriate care, promote team-based collaboration and advance patient safety and quality healthcare for all.

CPR hopes ACC will continue to examine the ways that multidisciplinary team-based care representing the full-range of healthcare professionals to ensure patients have access to the quality care providers of their choice. We welcome any opportunity to support you in this.

Sincerely,  
The Coalition for Patients' Rights

The Coalition for Patients' Rights' members include the:  
Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Academy of Audiology

American Academy of Chiropractic Physicians  
American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy  
American Association of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
American Association of Naturopathic Physicians  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses  
American Chiropractic Association  
American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Congress of Electroneuromyography  
American Massage Therapy Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Psychological Association Practice Organization  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Certification Board for Nutrition Specialists  
Delaware Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Hospice & Palliative Nurses Association  
Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium  
Massachusetts Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Board for Certification of Hospice & Palliative Nurses  
National League for Nursing  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Oklahoma Nurses Association  
Oncology Nursing Society  
South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists