



February 9, 2010

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA
Executive Vice President, CEO
American Medical Association
515 North State Street
Chicago, IL 60654

Dear Dr. Maves:

The Coalition for Patients' Rights™ (CPR) consists of 38 organizations, representing more than 3 million licensed health care professionals who provide a diverse array of safe, effective, and affordable health care services to millions of patients each year. These competent, well-prepared health care professionals complete years of comprehensive education in their respective specialties, and have long been recognized at the federal and state levels as qualified and essential contributors to the U.S. health care system.

The Coalition member organizations have grave concerns about the accuracy and tone of the Scope of Practice Data Series modules that the AMA has produced as advocacy tools. Inaccuracies, omissions and innuendos within these documents seriously limit their credibility, objectivity and usefulness. Infused with bias more than credible facts or research, the modules call into question the safety and quality of the care provided by virtually all health care professionals, other than MDs and DOs.

The modules fail to provide empirical evidence supporting the assumptions within them – that MDs and DOs provide superior care to all other types of health care providers or that the scopes of practice of our members are unsafe, problematic, or warrant special scrutiny or study. Our member organizations follow the highest standards for patient safety, and numerous studies demonstrate that our members provide safe, high quality, and cost-effective care.

These modules are unnecessary, contain misstatements, and are extremely subjective and misleading. Accurate and complete information about the education and credentialing of health care professionals other than MDs and DOs can be obtained directly from the entities charged with the responsibility for those professions, such as the organizations comprising the Coalition.

Further, it is reasonable to expect that policymakers who have questions about the qualifications of a particular group of health care professionals will go to the primary source for the most accurate and up-to-date information. The laws and regulations adopted by state legislators and regulators ensure that health care professionals practice within the scope of their education and training. AMA's modules needlessly question this already-substantiated work.

The Coalition members strongly urge the AMA to withdraw the Scope of Practice Data Series. Instead, in the spirit of collaboration, we invite you and your colleagues to work with CPR members to address the growing needs of patients across the United States as they reach out to access quality care across health care disciplines.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for Patients' Rights™

The following Coalition member organizations have signed-on in support of this letter:

American Academy of Chiropractic Physicians	Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners	Association of periOperative Registered Nurses
American Association of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine	Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
American Association of Colleges of Nursing	Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions
American Association of Critical-Care Nurses	Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
American Association of Naturopathic Physicians	California Optometric Association
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists	Emergency Nurses Association
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses	Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy	Integrated Health Policy Consortium
American Chiropractic Association	National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
American College of Nurse-Midwives	National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
American College of Nurse Practitioners	National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
American Nephrology Nurses Association	National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses
American Nurses Association	National League for Nursing
American Occupational Therapy Association	National Nursing Centers Consortium
American Physical Therapy Association	National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
American Psychiatric Nurses Association	Oncology Nursing Society
American Psychological Association Practice Organization	Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
American Speech-Language Hearing Association	Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society