March 15, 2012

PCORI
Public Comments
1701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
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Washington, DC 20006

The Coalition for Patients’ Rights represents more than 35 organizations, consisting of more than 3 million licensed healthcare professionals who provide a diverse array of safe, effective and affordable services to millions of patients each year. The Coalition is dedicated to ensuring that all qualified healthcare professionals can practice to the full extent of their education, training, licensure and experience. Our members believe that communication, collaboration and coordination between healthcare professionals are essential in order to provide high quality, safe care for patients.

As the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute solidifies its priorities and begins the process of awarding research grants, the Coalition encourages PCORI to consider not only what topics to investigate, but who will play a role in providing the treatments. A variety of non-M.D./D.O. professionals are key in ensuring patients receive high quality care. Existing research demonstrates that different types of providers can impact patient outcomes. For instance, a 2010 study conducted by researchers from Harvard University, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and CVS Caremark and published in the American Journal of Managed Care found that nurses speaking to patients as they are discharged from a hospital are the second most influential professional in promoting adherence, just behind in-store pharmacists.¹ Other research has shown that having a multidisciplinary team make daily rounds is associated with lower mortality rates among patients hospitalized in the intensive care unit.²

The Coalition encourages PCORI to consider the role of the full spectrum of health care professionals as you work to assess treatments and modalities that will ensure quality outcomes. In day-to-day practice, scope of practice is an ongoing discussion at the state level and restrictions on scope of practice can effectively limit the care patients can receive. Existing research demonstrates the importance of non-M.D./D.O. professionals in providing quality care, but scope of

practice battles, fueled by political or financial concerns, rather than evidence, can hinder patient access to these important care providers.

We hope the PCORI board members will consider the importance of evaluating the impact that different providers can have on patient outcomes so the broader community of health advocates, providers, regulators and lawmakers can look to a well-balanced body of evidence to inform decision making.

Best regards,

The Coalition for Patients’ Rights

**National Members**
- American Academy of Chiropractic Physicians (AACP)
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
- American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM)
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN- Colleges)
- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN-Critical Care)
- American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP)
- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)
- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)
- American Chiropractic Association (ACA)
- American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS)
- American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)
- American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP)
- American Congress of Electroneuromyography (ACE)
- American Nurses Association (ANA)
- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
- American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)
- American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA)
- American Psychological Association Practice Organization (APAPO)
- American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Association for Nurses In AIDS Care (ANAC)
- Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN)
- Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN)
- Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP)
- Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)
- Emergency Nurses Association (ENA)
- Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association (HPNA)
- National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS)
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health (NPWH)
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
- National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses (NBCHPN)
- National League for Nursing (NLN)
- National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF)
- Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)

**State Affiliates**
- Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Massachusetts Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Oklahoma Nurses Association
- South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists