Abstract

Roles for advanced practice nurses have led to improved access to primary health care services. Many studies have demonstrated that primary care services, such as wellness and prevention services, diagnosis, and management of many common uncomplicated acute illnesses and management of chronic diseases can be provided by nurse practitioners as least as safely and effectively as by physicians. In an effort to meet the demands of patients, nurse practitioners are the ideal providers to provide quality, cost-effective care. They are specifically educated to manage acute and chronic illnesses and they can meet the demands of primary health care needs. With the bulk of health services moving into homes, community health centers, nurse-managed clinics, schools, and other venues, nurse practitioners offer a unique, holistic perspective to the nation’s health care delivery system. Nurse practitioner services have been associated with high quality care, excellent patient outcomes, cost-effectiveness, and high levels of patient satisfaction. The view of the advanced nurse practice role is not confined to only the United States of America. The abstracts presented at the recent 7th International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Conference in London support that the global views of nurse practitioners need to change. There were 238 abstracts that covered a variety of topics such as applied research, and advanced practice professional regulation, and the educational preparation of nurse practitioners. In order to conduct a comprehensive review of the abstracts, they were organized and placed in a table by type of research, clinical scope of practice, country of origin, and type of institutions represented. The purpose in organizing the abstracts was to allow for easier understanding of the wide range of topics presented at the conference and to understand the barriers that nurse practitioners constantly have to face that are preventing patients from receiving the best care.