

The Role of NPs in the Changing Health Care Paradigm

[VIDEO TRANSCRIPT]

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Hello my name is doctor Anne Dabrow Woods and I'm the chief nurse of Wolters Kluwer health learning research and practice and today I'm happy to bring you a new series called from the desk of the chief nurse. And today I have Lisa Bonsall joining me. She's a nurse practitioner as well as our senior clinical editor for Lippincott nursing centers. So welcome Lisa. Thanks Anne. So today we're going to talk about the changing healthcare paradigm and the role of nurse practitioners within the system here in the United States as well as globally. We do know that the biggest challenge we have for any healthcare provider related to healthcare is being to provide quality healthcare based on the evidence that's cost-effective. And secondly to make sure that we can provide access to care to all persons who need it. So Lisa I want to ask you, with the history of nurse practitioners, how do you think nurse practitioners through their history are well positioned to be leaders in this healthcare system? Well thank you Anne. So over fifty years ago Dr. Loretta Ford was a public health nurse and she saw this need in rural communities for healthcare services. So she thought that nurses were well positioned to fill this need and to provide the care. So she thought, let's take nurses, give them a little more education, a little more training and let them practice independently and meet, reach these people in the community. So she partnered with Dr. Henry Silver and developed the first nurse practitioner program back in 1965. So she integrated this traditional nurse role with advanced medical training and this new health care professional emerged, the nurse practitioner, with a focus on illness prevention and health promotion. So that's kind of a quick history of our profession. Today we know how integral NPs are as part of a

health care team. In 2010 the Institute of Medicine and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released the report on the Future of Nursing: Leading Change Advancing Health. At the same time the Affordable Care Act was coming into play so there was a lot happening in health care. Now this future of Nursing report has four key messages. First, nurses should practice to the fullest extent of their education and training. Second, that we need to achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system with seamless academic progression. We also should be full partners in health care with physicians and other professionals and redesign health care in the United States. And we need effective workforce planning and policy making to collect data better and to improve our information infrastructure. So as NPS we are positioned to make and lead these changes. I absolutely agree with you I think that between the Affordable Care Act and the Future of Nursing and it's certainly with the changing paradigm of health care today, we're really well positioned to have a say and to be there where policies are being made. I don't know if you're familiar, but Wolters Kluwer recently partnered with the Nurses on Boards Coalition which is really an interesting group. They started out in 2014 and really spoke to the idea that nurses have to be present where decisions are being made and that fits with the third tenet of the Future on Nursing report that says we really need to be full partners in health care along with physicians, anyone else who's making healthcare decisions. So the Nurses on Boards Coalition's whole goal is to get 10,000 nurses at seat to the table on boards by 2020 and that's quite a huge undertaking. But I think it's something that's really going to change the tenor of health care is being delivered. I also think though nurse practitioners now are having a perfect opportunity to really be the voice of reason and where health care is going and I think it's so important for us to get to know our legislators and be able to speak to them about health care and what are the things going through our Congress right now, what is what is going to help patients, what isn't going to help patients and we also need to make sure that we're practicing based upon our full scope of practice. I think that's equally as

important. So Lisa let me just ask you one other question. So based on all these things that are going on with the changes in health care, with where nurse practitioners are positioned, do you think that nurse practitioner movement is going to continue to grow and are we going to continue to be leaders? Oh absolutely, we are so well positioned to take on this role and we have the opportunities, we have the knowledge, we have the skills, we have the background and it wouldn't make sense for us not to take advantage of this opportunity. We're the ones providing care, we need to be where decisions are being made. So I absolutely agree. Well good, good. So thank you today for joining us. I think it's very clear that both of us agreed that nurse practitioners are leaders within the healthcare system and we will continue to be leaders and we are well positioned to make our mark on the future of healthcare in the United States and globally.

Thank you very much.

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