The Growing Role of Nurse Practitioners in Home Based Primary Care

Background
There is an increasing need for home-based primary care (HBPC) due to the growing number of homebound individuals who are frail and chronically ill. Home-based services for healthcare has been proposed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (2014) as an effective way to provide health care while addressing the unique preferences and needs of homebound individuals. It is estimated that 2 million older adults are completely or mostly homebound, while an additional 2 million are considered frail with limited mobility which limits their ability to leave the home for provider visits. This equates to 4 million older adults who could benefit from home-based primary care services (Cornwell, 2017).

85 years old and up fastest growing population

4M Homebound Older Adults need HBPC

Yao et al. (2017) provided the first comprehensive description of how the nurse practitioner role is growing in HBPC nationwide. In 2012, 2,730 nurse practitioners made 924,243 home and domiciliary visits to Medicare FFS home visits (19% of all non-podiatry residential care visits). In 2013, 3,300 nurse practitioners made 1.1 million visits (more than any other type of provider delivering HBPC). The older adult population over the age of 85 is expected to grow by 100 percent over the next 15 years (Casselman, 2014). With the expected growth in population, the need for HBPC will continue to grow along with the need for nurse practitioners who provide care in this setting.

NP Run Programs in US
Provider (Niche) Models:
• Primary Care (longitudinal care)
• Transitional Care Management (TCM)
• Palliative Care/Hospice Care

(i.e. Senior Care Clinic Medical House Calls, California; Wake Forest Baptist Health House Calls, North Carolina)

Independence At Home (IAH) Model
(i.e. House Call Providers, Oregon)

Alternative Payment Models
• Primary Care First (Beginning Jan 2020)

Sentinel Reports on NP Quality & Safety
• Secretary Azar’s Report 2018 – Reforming America’s Healthcare System Through Choice and Competition
• Peter Buerhaus’ Report 2018 – Nurse Practitioners: A Solution to America’s Primary Care Crisis
• Federal Trade Commission Report 2014 – Competition and the Regulation of Advanced Practice Nurses
• IOM Report 2010 – Future of Nursing

Patient Satisfaction with HBPC
• Buerhaus, et al (2018), Key strengths of NPs providing HBPC decreasing preventable hospital admissions, readmissions and ED use
• Francisco, et al (2018), Improved outcomes with NP provided HBPC
• Oliver, Pennington, Revelle, & Rantz (2014), Impact of nurse practitioners on health outcomes of Medicare and Medicaid patients

References: Full and detailed references available upon request.
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