

RE: Impact Statement

To whom it may concern:

My name is Ellen Otto and I am a Family Nurse Practitioner in both Nebraska and Wyoming. I would like to share my experience with you regarding the limitation of allowing nurse practitioners (NP) to utilize fluoroscopy when treating patients.

Currently in the state of Nebraska, NPs cannot utilize live fluoroscopy for procedures; though Physician Assistants (PA) are able to do so with limited training.

I live near the border of Wyoming and Nebraska amidst several small rural communities with populations ranging from towns with 45 citizens, to the closest regional hospital 60 miles away with a population of 15,000. The hospitals in the area are critical access that often transfer to regional facilities with a higher level of care. Recruitment of doctors and even physician assistants is difficult in the area for many reasons: lack of entertainment, employment opportunities for spouses, and little option for advancement. Our region is however, populated with several talented nurse practitioners. Often these nurses have been cross trained in several specialties, because they work in small hospitals and must wear "many hats" in their nursing role.

My personal career has been in ICU/ER for 10 years, followed by working in Interventional Radiology for 3 more before returning to obtain my NP. I have been responsible for the monitoring of patients, critical medication administration, interpretation of physiological changes, and personal care of patients and families for years. When in Interventional Radiology I was responsible for screening for barriers to sedation, monitoring of sedated patients, and administration of medications for conscious sedation with minimal guidance as the supervising provider was performing interventions and relied on me to understand risks, benefits, and anticipate the depth of sedation required for different procedures. This was a skill that I had used in ICU for many years on ventilated patients and now transferred to using it on patients that did not have protection of their airway. That was my responsibility, to keep them comfortable and alive.

After graduating with my NP degree, the physician that I worked with for 3 years wanted to hire me to continue to work with him in a greater capacity. However, due to the current statutes limiting my ability to perform procedures under fluoroscopy, I was not able to take that role. I was offered to work with his parent company in Colorado where there are not the fluoroscopy limitations; however I am married to a rancher and cannot relocate to Colorado. This would have benefited me to take the opportunity, but I can't help but think that the community lost an opportunity to have someone in the role that had ties to the community and an established professional reputation for consistency and safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter,



Ellen Otto, MSN, FNP