

It's all about quality of care

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Chuck Moran- Pennsylvania Medical Society

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In Harrisburg, Senate Bill 25 is starting to heat up with nurse practitioners planning to storm Harrisburg to demand an end to collaborative agreements. This bill would permit individuals with graduate nursing degrees to practice medicine and provide medical care without the guaranteed back-up support of a medical doctor that currently exists, or having a medical degree.

In the past, there have been many inaccurate descriptions of collaborative agreements spread by the nurse practitioner lobby in Pennsylvania.

Myth: Collaborative agreements are unnecessary business contracts between nurse practitioners and physicians.

Fact: By law, the collaborative agreement requires immediate availability of the physician, a predetermined plan for emergency services, and availability of the physician on a regularly scheduled basis. It ensures that every patient being cared by a nurse practitioner has a medical doctor involved in the management of their medical care -- an assurance which is critical when medical care goes beyond the nursing education and experience of a nurse practitioner as well as beyond their clinical ability.