

2/14/2015

Honorable Public Health and Welfare Committee Members,

I am a nurse practitioner who has offered routine foot care as a part of my practice for the past 8 years. With the diabetes epidemic and the advancing age of baby boomers, the demand for competent foot care is ever increasing. So much so, that I am currently in the process of opening a practice that will incorporate a team of R.N.'s trained in the performance of routine foot care. While I acknowledge podiatrists have a much broader knowledge base and skill set when it comes feet, this does not diminish the impact of the care APRN's provide independently as per definition in the Kansas Nurse Practice Act.

60-11-101. Definition of expanded role; limitations; restrictions. (a) Each "advanced practice registered nurse" (APRN), as defined by K.S.A. 65-1113 and amendments thereto, shall function in an expanded role to provide primary, secondary, and tertiary health care in the APRN's role of advanced practice. Each APRN shall be authorized to make independent decisions about advanced practice nursing needs of families, patients, and clients and medical decisions based on the authorization for collaborative practice with one or more physicians. This regulation shall not be deemed to require the immediate and physical presence of the physician when care is given by an APRN. Each APRN shall be directly accountable and responsible to the consumer.

Senate Bill No. 141 groups nurse practitioners and physicians assistants. Admittedly, there are many similarities. Some differences are that our definition of the expanded role does not contain supervisory language as does this bill. A second difference, is that our expanded role does not require the immediate and physical presence of the **collaborating** physician. A third difference is that nurse practitioners are governed by the State Board of Nursing, not the Board of Healing Arts. This bill makes no reference to the State Board of Nursing. I would welcome podiatrists as responsible/collaborating physicians in amendment of K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 65-1130, section D. Otherwise, I would like all reference of APRN's removed from the bill.

Respectfully,

Jayne Hermes, MSN, APRN, NP-C