



November 13, 2020

Dear NPWH Community:

Re: Women's Health Nurse Practitioners and Patient Safety

Many of you have seen the American Medical Association (AMA) messaging calling for an end to "scope creep" and claiming that care by NPs is unsafe for patients. You may be wondering how this can impact WHNPs and how NPWH is responding. We want to provide you with an update.

NPWH is monitoring the situation and working closely with our allies on the NP Roundtable on the coordinated message to the AMA denouncing this false campaign. We also want you to understand and elevate the important work that NPWH and WHNPs are doing to improve patient safety for all women, including addressing the public health crisis of maternal mortality.

WHNPs are on the front lines of patient safety efforts in practice and in national, state and local initiatives. Our focus always has been and will continue to be on the patient. NPWH is a full partner in interdisciplinary patient safety efforts to improve women's and maternal health outcomes, placing WHNPs at the forefront of these endeavors. WHNPs are respected members of the women's health community of clinicians, which includes our OB/GYN and maternal fetal medicine colleagues, midwives, and other key stakeholders who have been coming together for several years, leading efforts in maternal mortality and other initiatives that have changed policy and improved patient outcomes. Our focus and efforts are to strengthen interdisciplinary care among all clinicians so the patient has the greatest opportunity for well-being and health. The success of our women's health community of clinicians is predicated on a shared vision that embraces the expertise, perspective, and priorities of each member, including WHNPs, and integrates those into efforts to improve access to and the quality of women's health care that saves women's lives. With an emphasis on the patient, this approach facilitates WHNP participation and leadership at the local, state and national level.

As the nation combats the public health crises of maternal mortality, disparate and inequitable health outcomes, and a global pandemic, patients and communities need unfettered access to clinicians functioning to the full extent of their education, certification, and licensure. **The true threat to patient safety is in efforts that seek to discredit any clinician group.** Such campaigns only serve to undermine ongoing, coordinated, and aligned patient safety efforts. NPWH applauds the women's health community of clinicians for building a model based on respect for each member and clinician group and holds this up as an example of success in partnering to improve patient care.

We are committed to continuing to build on these trusted partnerships that support WHNP leadership in working to improve women's healthcare and health outcomes in practice settings, healthcare systems, and communities.

#WHNPsLead, #NPsLead, #WeChooseNPs, #CommunityofClinicians #weareinterdisciplinary

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather L. Maurer".

Heather L. Maurer, MA
Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Nurse Practitioner's in Women's Health (NPWH)