

Teams Work... for Patients

Ohio House Bill 216 undercuts team approach

Patients are better served in Ohio because state lawmakers and other key stakeholders continue to value the important shift to team-based patient care.



The key to better health outcomes as well as cost containment in the health care system is coordinated care provided by a team of health care professionals who work in collaboration.

Every member of the team plays a critical role. Nurses, therapists, pharmacists, dieticians and others each do their part in a team *led by a physician*. The process is efficient and effective. It ensures the patient receives coordinated care while minimizing fragmented or unnecessary treatment and protecting patient safety.

House Bill 216 threatens this process, just as the team-based approach is becoming firmly established throughout the state. House Bill 216 would allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to essentially break from the team-based model and practice independently, with no requirement for physician collaboration.

House Bill 216 can harm patient care because it:

- Eliminates required collaboration with physicians. There is no compelling evidence that requiring APRNs to partner with a physician poses a burden or limits their ability to provide care. Rather, both APRNs and physicians are integral to the health care team.
- Dismisses the education and training the physician brings to a team caring for a patient. Physicians have more than 11 years of diverse education including direct clinical care with patients, more than any other health care professional.
- Removes physicians from the anesthetic care team model. Patients requiring anesthesia are facing complex medical procedures and deserve care from a skilled team.
- Allows APRNs to independently prescribe addictive and dangerous Schedule II drugs without consulting the physician.

House Bill 216 undermines team-based patient care



Ohio's physicians value the abilities and contributions of APRNs and all nurses. However, House Bill 216 goes too far to upset the collaborative effort already underway among all health care professionals.

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