Dermatology Nursing and Patient Advocacy

Maura Flynn, M.P.P., R.N., DNC
Brie L. Trefrey, BSN, DNC
Claire Wood
We have no relevant financial relationship with a commercial interest to disclose.
Describe the value of the Dermatology Nurse

- Accountability – works under own license (not MD’s)
- Clinical practice – ability to perform tasks/procedures for which they have been trained and have demonstrated competency. (see next slide)
- Patient Education – Nurses are qualified to educate and develop teaching materials. (This is different from unlicensed personnel giving scripted instructions.)
Four Main Issues from the IOM Report  
(For reference only)

1. Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.

2. Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.

3. Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.

4. Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.

Reference
Certification

1. “Certification provides an added credential beyond licensure & demonstrates by examination that the RN or NP has acquired a core body of specialized knowledge and adheres to specialized nursing standards”.

2. Professional board certification is a voluntary designation earned by nurses for demonstrating advanced levels of competency, skill and knowledge in their specialty field

Reference
Patient Advocacy

Advocacy:
– The act or process of supporting a cause or proposal:
  the act or process of advocating something (*Advocacy*, n.d.)
– Influencing decisions that affect outcomes

Reference

Types of advocacy

A. Institutional
   • Nurses work collaboratively with administration to support policies that benefit patients, optimize outcomes, and enhance patient satisfaction.

B. Public
   • Nurses advocate on local, state and federal levels on behalf of patients
Patient Advocacy and the Dermatology Nurse

Patient: Nurses do it everyday by:
Taking action on matters that improve patient satisfaction and outcomes
  • At the bedside
    • Supports patient choices
    • Assists patient in navigating the health care system and insurance
Patient Advocacy

**Legislative:** Impacting the proposed laws and amendments being considered by the Congress or state legislatures

**Regulatory:** Seeking to influence the agencies that implement federal laws (e.g., submitting comments to the Food and Drug Administration regarding indoor tanning)

**Media:** Using the media to affect public opinion about policy deliberations (e.g., op-eds, TV or radio ads)
Patient Advocacy

Other Patient Advocates

• Patients
• Family members and friends
• Disease specific organizations
• Coalitions (e.g., Coalition of Skin Diseases-CSD)
Patient Advocacy

Examples of influence tactics (Emphasis on education)

• Sign-on to group letters
• Send individual correspondence
• Develop relationships with legislators and (especially) staff
• State House and Capitol Hill visits
• Seek introduction of resolutions or legislation
  • e.g., SUNucate legislation
Patient Advocacy

Examples of influence tactics

• Engage in networking and coalition work
  • AADA Legislative Meeting with CSD
• Be a resource and an expert (e.g., testimony)
• Tell a personal story
• Develop and disseminate materials/leave beinds
• Seek appointments to panels, committees, and commissions
Thank You