



Physician Oversight for Advanced Practice Nurses and Mid-Level Providers

ICEP Urges NO Votes on SB 73 & HB 1052

The Illinois College of Emergency Physicians (ICEP) recognizes the importance of mid-level providers, such as advanced practice nurses or physician assistants, in streamlining health care processes, reducing patients' time to care and easing the volume of patients physicians need to treat. ICEP recommends that SB 73 and HB 1052 be defeated and the current standard of requiring physician oversight is maintained for advanced practice nurses.

- Hospital emergency departments throughout Illinois are staffed with advanced practice nurses (APNs) and physician assistants (PAs) who work collaboratively with emergency physicians to improve efficiency and access to care. The collaborative environment promotes better medicine, resulting in high-quality, timely patient care.
- In crowded emergency departments often overburdened with an influx of patients, mid-level providers' assistance can be invaluable in improving patient flow. Their ability to examine, diagnose, and treat patients, including prescribe appropriate medications with physician oversight, improves patient throughput and receipt of timely care.
- The utilization of mid-level providers in emergency departments and other hospital settings is effective because these providers work under physician supervision.
- While APNs serve an important health care role, they do not have the training or experience they would warrant independent practice. Physicians have seven or more years of post-graduate education and more than 10,000 hours of clinical experience. Most APNs have just two to three years post-graduate training and less clinical experience than is obtained in the first year of a two-year medical residency that physicians must complete before they are allowed to independently practice.

ICEP urges that SB 73 and HB 1052 be defeated. Advanced practice nurses and other mid-level providers are a vital resource to facilitate more efficient health care, but it is important to maintain a requirement for physician supervision to ensure patients receive the highest standard of care.