



MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA Issue Backgrounder

Health Care Delivery Teams Physicians and Nurse Practitioners – HB 346 (O'Bannon)

Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) physician leaders have participated in efforts to address geographical health care access disparity, workforce issues and the impact of the Affordable Care Act on demand for health care services and delivery models. Balancing the nexus among health care workforce capacity challenges while providing quality patient care and ensuring access to care continues to be a top priority for MSV.

The team-based care model has become more prevalent, most visibly through a growing trend toward patient-centered medical homes and accountable care organizations. Many physicians and nurse practitioners (NPs) currently work effectively in these models and this legislation will reflect what is, in these cases, current practice.

MSV supports HB 346, which reflects an agreement reached between MSV and the Virginia Council on Nurse Practitioners (VCNP). This bill will reinforce the team-care concept and will enhance patient access to quality care in the commonwealth.

Specifically, the bill will:

- Provide for a consultative and collaborative approach that supports patient-centered care
- Ensure that physicians remain the leader and manager of the health care team
- Enable physicians to manage more nurse practitioners (formerly four, would be six), thereby increasing the number of patients that can be seen
- Allow for more flexibility for NPs to treat patients in nursing homes and free clinics
- Reduce paperwork – increasing efficiency

Please support HB 346 (O'Bannon)

For more information, contact the Medical Society of Virginia's government affairs department by phone at 804 | 343-1185, or visit the MSV Web site, www.msv.org/legislative.

