NURSE PRACTITIONER LEGISLATION PASSES
Clear benefits for health consumers activated

NEW YORK STATE – The Nurse Practitioners Modernization Act is slated to become law as part of the 2014 New York State budget enacted this week. This is a tremendous step forward that advances greater patient access to care and recognizes the important role that Nurse Practitioners play as independent, autonomous health care professionals in New York State.

This new law removes the requirement of a written practice agreement between an experienced nurse practitioner and physician as a condition of practice. Effective January 1, 2015, Nurse Practitioners with greater than 3,600 hours of practice, regardless of the NP’s specialty, will no longer be required to maintain a written practice agreement signed by a physician, or identify practice protocols. However, consistent with NP practice of providing high quality care and federal requirements for Medicare reimbursement, the law recognizes the collaborative relationship that must exist among health care professionals.

“The new law is a result of enormous efforts by the Governor, the Senate and the Assembly, as well as The NPA leadership and volunteers,” said Denis Tarrant, ANP, president of The Nurse Practitioner Association New York State. “The cooperation among the Legislature, Executive, and The NPA led to the enactment of legislation that truly enhances the nurse practitioner profession in New York State and will ensure that New Yorkers will have access to high quality health care.”

“This new law was modeled after legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Dick Gottfried and Senator Cathy Young,” said Stephen Ferrara, NP, Executive Director of The NPA. “The NPA expresses sincere thanks to Governor Cuomo, the NPMA sponsors, as well as Assembly member Glick, Senator LaValle, and Senator Hannon. Without their collective efforts, and the advocacy of The NPA’s members, New York would still be operating under the arcane requirement of needing a written practice agreement signed by a physician.”
With the enactment of the new law, New York will be joining the 17 other states plus Washington, D.C. that do not require nurse practitioners to enter into written practice agreements with physicians as a condition to providing health care services.

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