The Role of Advanced Practice Providers in Urology

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INTRODUCTION

The undersupply of urologists relative to need for urologic care in the United States—these needs cannot be met by urology as a specialty.

Advanced practice providers (APPs) are unique providers of health care services who are practicing at the highest level of their certification and should be identified as such.

Licensure and scope of practice requirements for nurse practitioners and physician assistants are governed at the state level and vary greatly by location.

Billing regulations for practices that utilize APPs are complex; these must be understood and scrupulously followed.

It is incumbent on urology as a specialty to recognize and address potential deficits in care and develop mechanisms to properly utilize APP resources to address these deficits.

KEY POINTS

- Population growth, particularly in the Medicare population, has greatly increased the need for urologic care in the United States.
- Advanced practice providers (APPs) are unique providers of health care services who are practicing at the highest level of their certification and should be identified as such.
- Licensure and scope of practice requirements for nurse practitioners and physician assistants are governed at the state level and vary greatly by location.
- Billing regulations for practices that utilize APPs are complex; these must be understood and scrupulously followed.
- It is incumbent on urology as a specialty to recognize and address potential deficits in care and develop mechanisms to properly utilize APP resources to address these deficits.