



*Boone County Health Center  
& Medical Clinics*

October 8, 2020

Dear Members of the APRN Credentialing Review Committee:

Thank you for volunteering your time to this important process and for taking into consideration comments from the health care community. After reviewing the application (as the Chief Medical Officer at the Boone County Health Center) the administration and medical staff at BCHC oppose this application and do not support expanding and aligning the scope of the four APRN practice acts. We want to inform you about the policies in place at the Boone County Health Center to protect patient safety and the rationale behind those policies. This application does not align with our focus and emphasis on doing what is best for our patients to achieve the best outcomes.

As a critical access hospital, we take a complete team-based approach to health care and serving the needs of our rural patients. This has led to top level quality of care by providing the most appropriate and safe care to our patients while at the same time reducing risk and liability for the health center. As part of our team-based approach, we do require physician supervision of our nurse practitioners just as with physician assistants.

This policy is predominately based on the nurse practitioner's approach to care and the depth of their background knowledge on medical issues. The skill set of nurse practitioners and their method of treating patients is a perfect fit for team-based care, but due to their lack of comprehensive understanding the "why" for complex medical issues we believe there would be increased risk if they treated patients independently. Physician supervision is in place to ensure patient safety by reviewing these complex issues when they arise and to make certain nothing gets overlooked in the provisioning of care to our patients.

Our health center also has an established policy of not employing certified nurse midwives due to the appropriate setting and level of back up needed to guarantee patient safety. It would be too cumbersome on our health center to ensure proper level of care and oversight of certified nurse midwives if we were to employ these professionals as part of our health care team. We are one of several critical access hospitals which only have family practice physicians on staff and no OB/GYNs, and as such we try to minimize risk to the patient as much as possible. Certified nurse midwives working independently would be even more concerning from a patient safety and liability standpoint, so it is unlikely this policy would change at our facility as it does not align with our emphasis on providing patients with the most appropriate and safe care.

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Thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to inform you of our health center's policies and the reasoning behind those policies. The team-based approach to care is vital to the success of our health center, and we believe our policies are soundly based on providing the highest level of care without sacrifice to patient safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynette Kramer, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "L", "K", and "M" being particularly prominent.

Lynette Kramer, MD, Chief Medical Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanya Sharp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "T" and "S" being particularly prominent.

Tanya Sharp, Chief Executive Officer