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## Advanced Practice

## Fluoroscopy Scope Expansion: Part 2



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Since writing “Fluoroscopy Scope Expansion: Part 1,” the COVID-19 pandemic began, and my efforts to introduce this legislation seemed futile in the greater scheme of what was happening in the world. Priorities for many people and organizations shifted greatly. We went from flourishing and spearheading new initiatives to just trying to survive. But the winds are changing, and whether we are learning to thrive within this pandemic or the pandemic’s grip is weakening its hold, it is time to stop tabling things “for later.”

To my surprise, in January 2021, a Connecticut bill to allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to perform fluoroscopy services was introduced by a local state representative. Knowing that there were others who shared my interest was very encouraging. This opened doors to a new group of professionals to network with who have assisted me with devising a plan to bring this bill to fruition.

One of my next steps is re-evaluating who the stakeholders are, both the supporting and opposing ones. Knowing your stakeholders will allow you to focus your energy where it counts most. Opposing parties to this bill might be the radiologic technologist or radiology assistant associations. These groups may see the fluoroscopy privilege as something being “taken away” rather than shared, and it may make their employment feel less secure. Some physician groups may similarly feel that nurse practitioners are infringing upon their practice rather than seeing it as a collaborative effort.

Another way to strengthen this bill would be to produce some patient safety or cost-savings evidence on whether nurse practitioners having this privilege would be safer or save healthcare dollars. Unfortunately, there are no outcomes studies or data that exist on physician assistants or nurse practitioners as it relates to fluoroscopy privileges. However, two facts are certain. One, passing this bill would ensure nurse practitioners would have additional education to safely utilize fluoroscopy equipment to perform their jobs. Two, there would be no cost burden to add this privilege because the educational modules and tests have already been created and vetted. Any training or testing fees would be paid by the nurse practitioner and/or their employer.

As I continue to conduct my research and build my case, I find that every networking opportunity affords me more food for thought, broadens my perspective, and sharpens my leadership skills. I know realistically, bills like this take years to pass, but I plan to be very prepared to increase my chances of success. I would love to be a part of easing practice restrictions for nurse practitioners in radiology and knowing that with the appropriate on-the-job training and additional education, they will be able to use the tools to perform their job better.

I would enjoy hearing your thoughts on this topic, whether in favor of or opposed to fluoroscopy privileges for nurse practitioners, please e-mail me at [laura.prior@hhchealth.org](mailto:laura.prior@hhchealth.org).

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