



a division of

*Orthopedic Centers of Colorado*



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Physicians

Nathan D. Faulkner, MD

Craig A. Davis, MD

Jeffrey A. Arthur, DO

Stuart H. Myers, MD

Matthew R. Delarosa, MD

Philip A. Stull, MD

Kirk W. Jeffers, MD

Judith E. Kopinski, MD

Benjamin J. Mitchell, MD

Locations

1411 S. Potomac St.  
Suite 400  
Aurora, CO 80012

145 Inverness Drive E.  
Suite 300  
Englewood, CO 80112

Re: Nurse Practitioner use of fluoroscopy

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you today in my capacity as an orthopedic surgeon dedicated to the health of western Nebraskans. There is an ever-growing need for efficient, effective, and accessible patient care throughout the United States, especially in rural communities. I have witnessed this first-hand over the last ten years while practicing in Alliance and Scottsbluff.

“Solving” the challenges of quality healthcare is frequently an exercise in dissecting multi-faceted, often long-standing gordian knots in which no solution is wholly without merit and no solution is free from well-considered criticism. It is not always thus. Occasionally, the solutions are so manifestly clear that delaying their implementation is foolishly self-injurious. Among the issues in this latter category is that of allowing nurse practitioners (NPs) the ability utilize fluoroscopy in appropriate clinical settings.

Fluoroscopy is a dynamic imaging tool that is indispensable in a variety of clinical scenarios, including musculoskeletal procedures, joint injections, and other minimally invasive interventions. Traditionally, fluoroscopy has been utilized by physicians, but the increasing demand for such procedures, paired with a shortage of medical providers, underscores the importance of empowering nurse practitioners with the necessary skills and certification to perform these functions safely and effectively.

Nurse practitioners are highly trained healthcare providers with a broad range of clinical expertise. Many NPs already perform procedures that require a high level of precision and skill, and they are often the front-line providers for patients in underserved and rural areas. Allowing NPs to use fluoroscopy would not only improve access to care, but it would also significantly reduce waiting times for patients who require these important procedures. This would be particularly beneficial in regions where physician

shortages are most acute, where NPs already play a critical role in delivering timely healthcare.

Furthermore, studies have shown that NPs who undergo appropriate training and certification can use fluoroscopy safely and competently. Allowing NPs to perform these tasks would increase the overall capacity of the healthcare system, ensuring that patients receive the care they need in a timely and effective manner. This practice could also result in cost savings for the healthcare system by optimizing the scope of practice of qualified healthcare providers and alleviating unnecessary burdens on physicians who may be overwhelmed with increasing procedural demands.

I am confident that with proper training and oversight, nurse practitioners can utilize fluoroscopy with the same level of safety, effectiveness, and professionalism as any physician. I urge you to consider supporting this critical change to improve the delivery of care, particularly in underserved communities, and to advance the quality of healthcare throughout Nebraska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SM' or 'Stuart H. Myers'.

Stuart H. Myers, M.D.