

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners provide high-quality cost-effective healthcare. They are registered Nurses with advanced educating and clinical training and national certification. In Florida, they are licensed under the term ARNP.

#### Nurse Practitioners (NPs)

- Expert clinicians with Master's and Doctoral degrees who provide primary, acute and specialty health care. They practice independently in almost half of our nation.
- Provide a full range of services, such as ordering, performing and interpreting diagnostic tests; diagnosing and treating acute and chronic conditions; prescribing medications and treatments; and managing overall patient care.
- 13,000 NPs practice in Florida today, providing solutions to the health care provider shortage crisis.

#### Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs)

- Highly educated, advanced practice registered nurses who deliver anesthesia to patients in precisely the same ways, for the same types of procedures and just as safely as physician anesthesiologists. CRNAs are well prepared to respond appropriately in emergency situations.
- Deliver essential healthcare in thousands of communities and are able to prevent gaps in access to anesthesia services, especially in rural, inner-city and other medically underserved areas of the country.
- In Florida, there are 3000 CRNAs filling the gap in anesthesia care.

#### Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs)

- Provide primary healthcare to all women including those of childbearing age, during pregnancy through birth and thereafter and provide gynecological and menopausal care.
- Most Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) are prepared at the master's level or above in both nursing and midwifery.
- In Florida, there are 700 CNMs providing care to pregnant women and newborns.

#### Clinical Nurse Specialists

Clinical nurse specialists are expert clinicians with advanced education and training in a specialized area of nursing practice who work in a wide variety of health care settings. A clinical nurse specialists' specialty may be defined by:

- population (such as: pediatrics, geriatrics, women's health)
- setting (such as: critical care or emergency room)
- disease or medical subspecialty (such as: diabetes or oncology);
- type of care (such as: psychiatric or rehabilitation); or
- type of problem (such as: pain, wounds, stress).

The Institutes of Medicine (IOM) and numerous studies confirm that ALL Advanced Practice Registered Nurses who practice without physician supervision deliver safe high-quality patient care resulting in equivalent patient outcomes to physicians. The IOM recommends that in order to increase access to health care, ARNPs practice without the need for supervisory or collaborative physician relationships.

*Doreen Cassarino*

[doreencassarino@gmail.com](mailto:doreencassarino@gmail.com)

Doreen Cassarino, DNP, FNP-BC, BC-ADM, FAANP, FNAP

***"It always seems impossible until it's done."***

***Nelson Mandela***

Florida Nurse Practitioner Network, First VP Legislative Affairs  
Nurse Practitioner Council of Collier County, Member at Large