

## Abstract

**Title:** A Proposal to Modify the Definition of Medical Director in Long Term Care.

**Submitted by:** Ginger Rogers ARNP, GNP-BC

**Date:** 6/4/09

**Project Chairpersons: Name** **Rank**

**Purposes:** The objective of this project is pursue policy change so that CMS redefines the definition of Medical Director in long term care to include nurse practitioners (NP).

### **Data sources:**

Literature/online searches The development of this project began in August of 2008. Background research was performed via www.Thomas.gov, Google and Google scholar web searches, Medline, PubMed as well as looking at evidence connected with Evercare and the NP role in the Nursing homes. These searches continue as the project develops in order to remain current with legislation, articles and research that will support this policy change.

### E-Mails and other contacts

E-mail communications were sent out to assess who would be open to responding to this idea. Communication was established with congressman, senators for Nebraska, the president of the Iowa AMDA, Barb Resnick who is on the policy committee of GAPNA. Response was also obtained from the AMA Nebraska chapter.

**Conclusions:** The nurse practitioner's influence in long term care facilities at the medical director level would positively impact care delivery in nursing homes as well as reduce costs and improve quality of life for the resident

**Implications for practice:** Success of this project will be evaluated by primarily one thing, the modification of the CMS definition of Medical Director to include Nurse Practitioners. Allowing nursing homes to employ advance practice nurses/ nurse practitioners as medical directors would provide greater support for supportive care in the nursing facility. Also, the nurse practitioner could carry on the work of the physician as medical director allowing physicians greater opportunity to pursue other areas of their expertise.

