Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Physician Assistants (PAs)

Snapshot:

- Healthcare reform, growing and aging population expected to increase demand for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Physician Assistants (PAs)
- Four types of APRNs licensed in GA: Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM); Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA); Nurse Practitioner (NP); and Clinical Nurse Specialist/Psychiatric Mental Health (CNS/PMH)
- APRNs feed the nursing faculty pipeline required to educate general RN workforce
- CNM, CRNA, and PA supply consistent or above national average per population
- Concerns exist with supply of NPs
- With an estimated 2,000 PAs practicing in Georgia, compared to over 4,500 NPs, Nurse Practitioners appear to be the backbone of the primary care non-physician workforce
- Current estimates do not take into consideration passage of 2010 health care reform so demand may be underestimated
- APRNs and PAs of critical importance given their capacity to complement primary care physician workforce

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

- Must attain a Master’s in Nursing (MSN) or Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) to secure certification as an APRN
- APRNs represent only a fraction (3.8%) of the overall RN workforce in GA
- Nurse Practitioners (NPs) represent bulk of APRNs in Georgia
- Average age of APRNs is 51.5 vs. 51.2 for all RNs in GA
- Data indicates Georgia has a deficit of Nurse Practitioners relative to 100,000 in population
  - 44 in Georgia vs. 51 for US in 2009
  - 36 in Georgia vs. 42 in US in 2006
- Role of APRNs in health care delivery is expected to grow
- Graduates at these levels may pursue other avenues of nursing practice so it is not clear how many of these graduates will enter into clinical roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of APRN</th>
<th>Number of Licensees in GA</th>
<th>Percent of all RNs in GA</th>
<th>Percent receiving qualifying education in GA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)</td>
<td>1,757</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioner (NP)</td>
<td>4,596</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>74.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist/Psychiatric Mental Health (CNS/PMH)</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Source: Georgia Board of Nursing, 11/16/2010; 2. As percentage of 105,952 licensed RNs in Georgia, 11/16/2010; 3. Data from USG RN Licensure Renewal Survey, 2010

- Growth can be seen in the graduation count of RNs with requisite degrees to assume the role of an APRN
- While growth is seen in the graduation count in recent years, it disappears when accounting for population growth

Number of Programs in Georgia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Programs in Georgia</th>
<th>Master’s Degree in Nursing</th>
<th>Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)</th>
<th>Doctor of Nursing Science (DNS)</th>
<th>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing</th>
<th>Physician Assistant (PA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USG</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Privates</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Others in development</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2 + others in development</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APRN Education Pipeline

- USG graduates bulk of graduate nurses in Georgia. In 2008:
  - MSN graduates: 262 USG; 100 privates
  - DNP graduates: 27 USG; 0 privates
  - PhD graduates: 7 USG; 2 privates
- Mercer recently started PhD program
- MSN and doctorate graduates also feed nursing faculty pipeline
- Number of graduate level nursing graduates has remained relatively flat compared with population growth
- USG still ramping up program capacity to educate future generations of nursing faculty

Physician Assistants (PAs)

- 4 programs currently offer PA degrees in Georgia
  - 1 USG program at MCG; 3 private institutions
  - New PCOM program started
- Bulk of PAs are educated in the private sector in Georgia
  - 37 USG graduates vs. 100 graduates from private institutions in 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>GA number per 100,000/ population</th>
<th>National number per 100,000/ population</th>
<th>GA rank out of 50 states + DC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)</td>
<td>15.57</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>27th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioner (NP)</td>
<td>35.82</td>
<td>42.04</td>
<td>34th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Nurse Specialist/Psychiatric Mental Health (CNS/PMH)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistant (PA)</td>
<td>18.29</td>
<td>16.87</td>
<td>27th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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3 Kaiser Foundation (2010). Statehealthfacts.org. Projected Number of Physician Assistants per 100,000 Population in Clinical Practice, as of December 31, 2008. Total Nurse Practitioners per 100,000 Population, 2009
5 Data compiled from the Georgia Department of Labor (2008). “Long Term Occupational Employment Projections,” Atlanta, GA