

Substituting nurse practitioners, physician assistants and nurses for physicians older care

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Substituting nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and nurses for physicians in healthcare for the aging population may achieve healthcare quality at least as good as care provided by physicians, according to a review of published studies.

The review assessed outcomes such as patient morbidity, mortality, satisfaction, and quality of life; quality of healthcare; provider workload and [job satisfaction](#); medication use; and costs. Evidence from two randomized controlled trials showed no effect on approximately half of the outcomes and a positive effect on the other half of these outcomes. Evidence from eight studies with other comparative study designs supported most of the results of the [randomized trials](#).

"Additional well-designed studies are needed to draw affirmative conclusions regarding quality of healthcare, costs and cost-effectiveness," wrote the authors of the *Journal of Advanced Nursing* review.

More information: Marleen H. Lovink et al, Effects of substituting nurse practitioners, physician assistants or nurses for physicians concerning healthcare for the aging population: a systematic literature review, *Journal of Advanced Nursing* (2017). [DOI: 10.1111/jan.13299](https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.13299)

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