Trends in the Use of Midlevels by Kansas Family Physicians

One of the principles of the patient-centered medical home is team-based care.¹ One of the precepts of team-based care is “all practice to the limit of their skill and license.” Team-based care may allow family physicians to focus on what physicians do best and to delegate tasks that do not require a physician to other team-members. Teams may be composed of physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, office staff members, dieticians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, marriage and family therapists and many others.

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Notwithstanding the divisiveness of political differences over the future of nurse practitioner independent practice, there has been a steady increasing trend of family physicians working in the same office with physician assistants and nurse practitioners. In 2012, 67% of Kansas family physicians worked in the office with a physician assistant, a nurse practitioner or both.