

Workforce Reorientation in an Era of Physician Shortages

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The era of physician shortages.

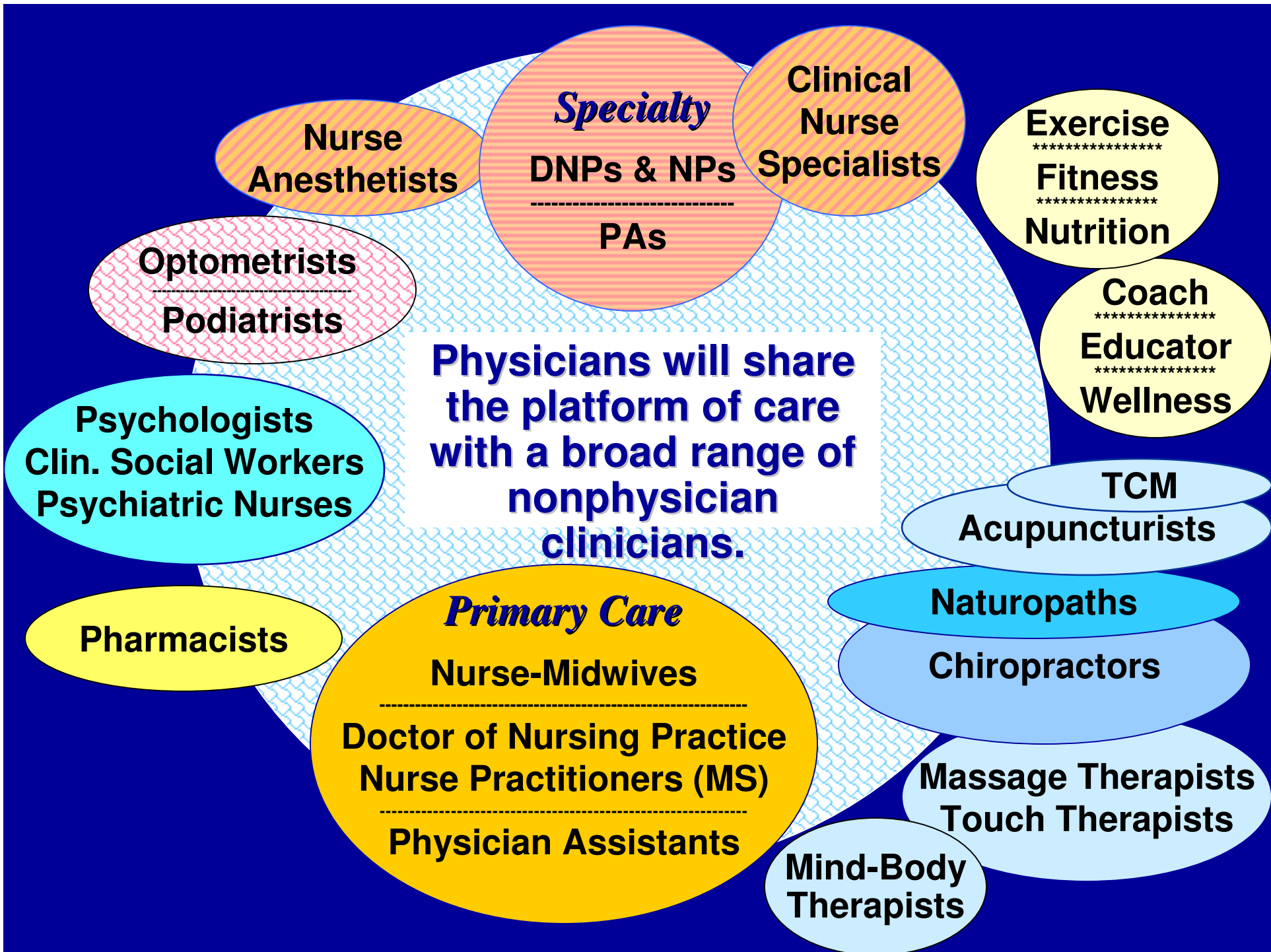
For too long, too many policy-makers have wished for too few physicians, and their wishes are being fulfilled.

By 2025, there could be as many as 200,000 too few physicians (20% of the needed supply).

Physician shortages could grow by another 40,000 under “Health Care Reform.”

“Shortages of physicians will force the medical profession to redefine itself in ever more narrow scientific and technological spheres while other disciplines evolve to fill important gaps.”

Cooper & Getzen, *Health Affairs*, 2002



OBSERVATIONS

Specialty care is being defined by technology and a growing number of patients with chronic illness and “cured” disease.

Primary care is an amalgam of wellness, prevention and illness care provided by generalist physicians (many of whom are narrowing their roles) and a range of nonphysician clinicians, most of whom provide segments of care.

Society will have to determine the margins of personal and collective responsibility for primary care.

Nursing has broadened its role to provide comprehensive care within a model that emphasizes the whole patient.

Opportunities exist to build a lattice of complementary care across the spectrum of specialty and primary care.

There is no “alternative” to evidence-based care.

Thank you

