

My name is Anna Westervelt, and I am a Nurse Practitioner working in the urology group at UVMHC. I am sure that you have been hearing from many APRNs regarding the removal of the collaborative agreement transition to practice and practice guidelines, but I would like to give you my perspective on the matter. I am fairly concerned with this issue, of the belief that there should be some kind of mandated support and mentoring for our new grad APRNs. While I agree with many APRNs that the collaborative agreement as it stands doesn't achieve this goal in a particularly meaningful way, I don't think that replacing what we have now with nothing at all is the solution. I feel like there is a productive conversation to be had within the APRN community, as well as between APRNs and physicians, around what kind of support and mentoring a new grad APRN needs, and how that should be regulated. It is my experience and belief that Advanced Practice Providers (both NPs and PAs,) learn on the job - we do not graduate from school ready to practice without support and mentoring from colleagues, both physicians and experienced APPs. There are new grads who are put in unsafe situations, practicing in locations without a physician or experienced APP always on site to help them, or with colleagues who have no interest in really providing the support that a new grad needs. I am concerned that if we don't have any regulations mandating that new grads have a provider who has agreed to be their mentor and support, more new grad APRNs are going to be put in these situations. This is not a question of whether or not APRNs provide excellent care, because we know that they do. It is about providing support to new APRNs, to ensure their success in practice. I hope that you take this into consideration, and welcome the opportunity for further discussion.

Best,
Anna Westervelt, APRN