Contents

CHAPTER 1: SUMMARY AND POLICY CONCLUSIONS .............................................. 3
Introduction .......................................................................................... 3
  Background and Scope of the Case Study ........................................... 3
  Organization of the Case Study ......................................................... 4
Summary ............................................................................................. 5
  Contributions of Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and
  Certified Nurse-Midwives ............................................................... 5
  Effects of Changing Payment Methods ............................................. 6
Policy Conclusions ............................................................................ 10
Addendum: Definitions and Descriptions .......................................... 12

CHAPTER 2: QUALITY OF CARE ................................................................. 17
Indicators of Quality ........................................................................... 17
  Comparisons With Physicians .......................................................... 17
  Patients’ Satisfaction ...................................................................... 18
  Physicians’ Acceptance .................................................................. 18
Methodological Problems of Studies ................................................. 18
Quality of Nurse Practitioners’ Care .................................................... 19
  Comparisons With Physicians .......................................................... 19
  Patients’ Satisfaction ...................................................................... 19
  Physicians’ Acceptance .................................................................. 21
Quality of Physician Assistants’ Care .................................................. 22
  Comparisons With Physicians .......................................................... 22
  Patients’ Satisfaction ...................................................................... 22
  Physicians’ Acceptance .................................................................. 23
Quality of Certified Nurse-Midwives’ Care ......................................... 23
  Comparisons With Physicians .......................................................... 23
  Patients’ Satisfaction ...................................................................... 24
  Physicians’ Acceptance .................................................................. 24
Summary ............................................................................................. 25

CHAPTER 3: ACCESS TO CARE ................................................................. 29
Nurse Practitioners’ Contribution to Access to Care ......................... 30
Physician Assistants’ Contribution to Access to Care ....................... 32
Certified Nurse-Midwives’ Contribution to Access to Care ............... 33
Summary ............................................................................................. 34

CHAPTER 4: PRODUCTIVITY, COSTS, AND EMPLOYMENT ......................... 39
Scope of Professional Practice ............................................................ 39
  Services Provided by Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants .. 39
  Services Provided by Certified Nurse-Midwives ............................... 40
Productivity ....................................................................................... 40
  Nurse Practitioners’ and Physician Assistants’ Productivity .......... 41
  Certified Nurse-Midwives’ Productivity ........................................ 43
Costs and Employment ...................................................................... 44
  Costs and Benefits of Training Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and
  Certified Nurse-Midwives ............................................................... 44
  Costs and Benefits of Private Employment of Nurse Practitioners,
  Physician Assistants, and Certified Nurse-Midwives ...................... 46
Contents—continued

Current Employment: Settings and Trends .............................................. 47
   Nurse Practitioners’ and Physician Assistants’ Employment .................. 47
   Certified Nurse-Midwives’ Employment ........................................... 48
Summary ......................................................................................... 49

CHAPTER 5: PAYMENT ISSUES ................................................................. 53
   Effects of Modifying Payment for Services of Nurse Practitioners,
      Physician Assistants, and Certified Nurse-Midwives ...................... 54
   Effects on Independent Practices of Nurse Practitioners and
      Certified Nurse-Midwives ........................................................... 54
   Effects on Physicians’ Practices ..................................................... 57
   Effects on Health Maintenance Organizations .................................. 58
   Effects on Hospitals ...................................................................... 58
   Effects on Nursing Homes ............................................................ 59

The Changing Context of Health Care ...................................................... 60
   Financing .................................................................................... 60
   Supply of Physicians ..................................................................... 60
   Delivery Sites and Organizations ................................................... 61
   Effects of Changes in the Health-Care Environment on Nurse Practitioners,
      Physician Assistants, and Certified Nurse-Midwives ..................... 62
Summary ......................................................................................... 64

APPENDIX A.—METHODS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .............................. 69

APPENDIX B.—PAYMENT FOR THE SERVICES OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS,
      PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, AND CERTIFIED NURSE-MIDWIVES .......... 71

REFERENCES .................................................................................. 79

Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-1.</td>
<td>Coverage and Direct Payment for Services of Nurse Practitioners, Physician</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assistants, and Certified Nurse-Midwives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2.</td>
<td>Comparison of Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and Certified</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nurse-Midwives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-1.</td>
<td>Equivalence in Quality of Care Provided by Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physicians (MDs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-2.</td>
<td>Difference in Quality of Care Provided by Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physicians (MDs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3.</td>
<td>Percentage of U.S. Resident Certified Nurse-Midwives by</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Type of Organization, 1976-77 and 1982</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-1.</td>
<td>Selected Alternatives to Traditional Health-Care Delivery</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-1.</td>
<td>Coverage and Direct Payment for Services of Nurse Practitioners,</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physician Assistants, and Certified Nurse-Midwives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-1.</td>
<td>Distribution of Physician Assistants by Size of Community</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>