

Nursing Board Policy

POLICY NUMBER: 30-05

Title: Overview of the scope of practice of advanced practice nursing

Date Issued: May 2002

Date(s) Reviewed: January 2007 (revised)

References:

Purpose: To clarify certain Board policies related to advanced practice nursing and prescriptive authority

Terms:

The term Advanced Practice Nurse (“APN”) is an umbrella term that includes any of the following types of advanced practice nurses: Certified Nurse Midwife (“C.N.M.”), Clinical Nurse Specialist, (“C.N.S.”), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (“C.R.N.A.”), or Nurse Practitioner (“N.P.”).

Inclusion on the Advanced Registry Required:

It is unlawful for any person who is not included on the advanced practice registry and appropriately authorized by the Board to use any of the above-listed titles or abbreviations. § 12-38-111.5(3), C.R.S. It is also necessary to be included on the advanced practice registry in order to apply for prescriptive authority. § 12-38-111.6(1), C.R.S.

Advanced Practice Nursing – Scope of Practice

The APN scope of practice is founded on the specialized education or training acquired by the professional nurse in preparation for advanced practice. It is within the independent scope of advanced practice nursing to order diagnostic testing, treatment and other nursing services. Prescribing or ordering medication is not within the APN scope of practice unless the APN has prescriptive authority.

Prescriptive Authority

The scope of prescriptive authority is founded on the practice area in which the APN received graduate or post-graduate education and experience, and the practice area recognized on the Advanced Practice Registry.

An advanced practice nurse who has prescriptive authority must have a currently valid collaborative agreement with a licensed physician. The nurse must keep the information regarding the collaborative agreement and the identity of the licensed physician current with the Board. An advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority may prescribe only those prescription drugs and controlled substances that are appropriate for treating patients within the nurse’s area of practice. Consistent with that limitation on the scope of prescriptive authority, the advanced practice nurse with prescriptive authority may accept, possess, administer and dispense medication including samples. The drugs prescribed may include drugs for routine health maintenance, for routine preventive care, for an acute self-limiting condition, for the care of a chronic condition that has stabilized, or for terminal comfort care.