

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING

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Arkansas Department of Health

Division of Healthcare Related
Boards & Commissions

POSITION STATEMENT

18-1

APRN Scope of Practice Decision-Making Model

Advanced practice nursing is dynamic and fluid. Scope of practice can evolve and change through experience, clinical competency, evidence-based practice, research, technology, legislation, and changes in the health care system (Kleinpell et al., 2012; LACE, 2012; NCSBN, 2008). All licensed nurses share a common knowledge base of responsibility and accountability defined as the practice of nursing. However, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) have advanced skills and knowledge obtained in their graduate education programs that can leave some uncertain. Defining scope of practice for APRNs isn't always black and white. Their scope encompasses their educational preparation, certification, population foci, and attained and maintained competence. Individual scope of practice will vary between APRNs, even with like specialty areas. APRNs are responsible and accountable, both professionally and legally, for practicing within their individual scope of practice. The mission of the ASBN is to protect the public. Holding APRNs accountable to practice within their scope is an important responsibility of ASBN.

See attached APRN Scope of Practice Decision-Making Model.

References:

- Kleinpell, R. M., Hudspeth, R., Scordo, K. A., & Magdic, K. (2012). Defining NP scope of practice and associated regulations: Focus on acute care. *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*, 24(1), 11-18.
- LACE Network. (2012). *LACE Statement on Age Parameters for APRNs*. Retrieved from http://login.icohere.com/connect/d_connect_itemframer.cfm?vsDTTitle=Clarifying%20Statement%20on%20Age%20Parameters%20for%20APRNs&dseq=11071&dtseq=63052&emdisc=2&mkey=public935&vbDTA=0&viNA=0&vsDTA=%27%27&PAN=1&bDTC=0&MTB=true&blog=0&dtxtseq=353237&rss=1
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (NCSBN). (2008). *Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education*. Retrieved from https://www.ncsbn.org/Consensus_Model_Report.pdf

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ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE (APRN) SCOPE OF PRACTICE DECISION MAKING MODEL

Identify, describe or clarify the task/function under consideration.

Review the scope of practice for the APRN role based on the ASBN *Nurse Practice Act* and *ASBN Rules, Chapter 4*.

Is the task/function expressly prohibited by *ASBN Nurse Practice Act, ASBN Rules, or any other law, rule or policy?*

YES



NO

Is the task/function included in the scope of practice based on your educational preparation and national certification specialty area?

YES

UNSURE

Is the task/function consistent with your APRN education, certification, population foci, national standards of practice, current APRN competencies, current nursing literature and research, policies and procedures, institution, accreditation standards, information on certification test content outline, or role delineation study?

NO



WITHIN SCOPE OF LICENSE

Is the performance of the task/function within the accepted "standard of care" which would be provided in similar circumstances by reasonable and prudent APRNs who have similar training and experience?

NO



YES

Do you have the required knowledge, skill, education and experience to do the activity or task? Can you produce documentation/evidence that you have the knowledge, current skills, education and experience to do the activity or task?

NO



YES

Are you prepared to manage the consequences and accept accountability for your actions? Can you defend yourself if an adverse event occurs?

NO



YES

Is it reasonable to expect the patient will be safe/without harm as a result of your actions?

NO



You now must make a decision to perform or decline to perform the activity or task according to the currently accepted standards of care and in accordance with your institution's policies and procedures.

Refer to a professional qualified to do task.