

Oregon State Board of Nursing Policy-Making Terminology

Statement of Purpose

The following definitions were adopted by the Board for the purpose of uniformity in the Board's statements which articulate application of the Nurse Practice Act. Such definitions shall be used to promote clear communication regarding the Board's expectations of behavior and practice in documents used for rulemaking and rule interpretation, strategic planning, and policy development; and shall help promote the Board's mission of protection of the public.

Board Policy

A document developed by staff, expert group/individual or appointed committee, which is approved by the Board. Policy interprets the intent of broad areas of regulation and serves to demonstrate the Board's formal opinion.

Policy Guideline

A framework approved by the Board which delineates role, competencies, requirements and limitations to perform in a specific capacity.

Issue Brief

A research-based paper which addresses a broad issue that affects the Board's regulatory mission. This paper is global, philosophical, and includes a historical statement which places an issue in context, as well as an explanation of why the issue is pertinent.

Discussion Paper

Balanced information on a particular topic which asks a question for the purpose of generating direction from the Board for further analysis, rulemaking, research, or policymaking. A discussion paper may include statistics such as fiscal impact, and reviews supporting and opposing arguments regarding a particular position or action.

Position Statement

A concise statement approved by the Board which offers a definitive view on a specific aspect of nursing scope and practice as it pertains to nursing regulation.

Operational Policy

Internal guide to decision-making or procedures developed and used by staff in their daily work. Operational policies are approved by management.

Operational Procedure

The internal process approved by management and used by staff to implement operational policies.

Adopted: April 14, 2005

The Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) is authorized by Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 678 to exercise general supervision over the practice of nursing in Oregon to include regulation of nursing licensure, education and practice in order to assure that the citizens of Oregon receive safe and effective care.

The OSBN further interprets statute and rule and issues opinions in the form of Board Policies, Policy Guidelines and Position Statements. Although they do not have the force and effect of law, these opinions are advisory in nature and issued as guidelines for safe nursing practice.