

# Utilization of Prescriptive Authority for Clinical Nurse Specialists and Nurse Practitioners

## **Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of this Policy Guideline is to identify practice hours specific to the competency of prescribing medications which may be used to meet the Board's requirements for initial prescriptive authority and/or renewal of prescriptive authority.

## **Background information**

OAR 851-056-0006 (5) states that an applicant for initial prescriptive authority in Oregon must provide evidence of successful completion of required clinical education in patient management. Such education may be documented through completion of a directly supervised practicum, or through evidence of unencumbered prescriptive authority in another state with "a minimum of 400 hours utilizing prescriptive authority and patient management within the past two years."

Furthermore, in order to renew prescriptive authority, Board regulations specify that an applicant may either complete a 45 hour pharmacology course within the two years prior to renewal or may attest to "400 hours of utilizing prescriptive authority at an advanced practice level" (OAR 851-056-0014 (3)(b)).

This document seeks to clarify how the term "utilizing prescriptive authority" may be defined for both initial and renewal applicants.

## **Initial Application**

It is the position of the Board that establishment of initial competency in prescribing involves patient management which includes substantial supervised practicum prescribing drugs for individual patients. It is the responsibility of the applicant and their educational program to verify that this competency has been met through initial education. Regulations address the process for adding clinical practicum under a limited license for supervised preceptorship when such prior experience has not been documented through initial education or practice in another state, US jurisdiction, or federal institution.

Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists using current prescriptive authority in another state, US jurisdiction or federal institution to meet the prescribing practice competency requirement must provide documentation that such authority is unencumbered and current. It is the responsibility of all initial applicants to review and sign assertion that they will prescribe in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

## **Renewal of Prescriptive Authority**

Oregon defines nursing practice broadly in statute and rule. Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists may meet licensure renewal requirements through a number of activities including administration, teaching, research, consulting, and population based client care. Once initial competency is established, it is the responsibility of the applicant to assure that they are safe to prescribe medications. Knowledge gained through continuing education with pharmacological management focus should be applied to reflect the context of the nurse prescriber's scope of practice.

The Board acknowledges that practice focus and expertise changes as Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists progress in their careers. Professional practice in advanced nursing domains may develop which includes other than direct patient care. Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists may appropriately use their prescribing expertise

in a number of areas which comprise utilization of prescriptive authority knowledge. Such areas include:

- Prescribing for individual patients
- Prescribing for populations (such as public health vaccines)
- Establishing and/or approving standing orders and protocols for drug therapy
- Active membership of a state, facility, or professional formulary committee which determines drug selection recommendations
- Serving as an investigator for drug studies
- Teaching pharmacology at the advanced nursing level
- Conducting and publishing research with a primary focus on patient management through drug therapy
- Expert consultation regarding prescribing standards and practice

**Adopted 4/12/2007**

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*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.*