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Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Practice Guidelines

Scope of Practice: Individual scopes of practice vary from one advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) to another, even between APRNs within the same role and focus area. It is important to remember that each nurse is responsible and accountable for the care they provide and to practice within their area of education, licensure, competence, and experience.

APRN Licensure: An APRN license is issued in one of the following roles: certified nurse midwife (CNM), certified nurse practitioner (CNP), certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), and clinical nurse specialist (CNS). APRNs are also licensed in at least one population focus area(s) the APRN was educated and nationally certified in. Focus areas include: Adult/Gerontology (acute or primary care), Family (across the lifespan), Neonatal, Pediatrics (acute or primary care), Psychiatric Mental Health, and Women's Health.

Legal Title: A person licensed by the board as an advanced practice nurse may use the title APRN along with role: CNP, CNM, CRNA, or CNS. APRNs are encouraged to use their licensure titles first after their name on patient related documentation and when advertising services. *Example: Mary Smith, APRN, CNM; or Jane Smith, CRNA; or Tom Smith, CNP, DNP, FNP.*

Practice: APRNs are expected to practice within their licensed role, focus area, competence, and experience. The scope of their practice, defined as tasks or activities they may perform or provide, vary based on the individual licensee. To determine if a task, intervention or role is within an APRN's scope, refer to the *APRN Scope of Practice Decisioning Algorithm*.

APRNs who want to treat patients that are not consistent with the APRN's foundational education, certification, and licensed APRN role are strongly encouraged to obtain additional formal education and national certification to align with the new role and population focus area.

However, no matter what an APRN's role or focus area, an APRN is expected to identify abnormal findings and appropriately collaborate and refer conditions outside of their expertise.

Age Parameters: The Board endorsed the LACE Network's [Clarifying Statement on Age Parameters for APRNs](#):

"Circumstances exist in which a patient, by virtue of age, could fall outside the traditionally defined population focus of an APRN but, by virtue of special need, is best served by that APRN. Such patients may be identified as non-traditional patients for that APRN. In these circumstances, the APRN may manage the patient or provide expert consultation to assure the provision of evidence-based care to these patients."

References:

LACE APRN Network (2012, April 24). Clarifying Statement on Age Parameters for APRNs. Retrieved from <https://login.icohere.com/public/topics.cfm?cseq=935>.

APRN Scope of Practice Decisioning Algorithm

Identify, describe or clarify the activity, intervention, or role under consideration.

Is the activity, intervention, or role expressly prohibited in the nurse practice act, other state, or federal law?
(Contact the Board of Nursing to assist if needed.)

YES

STOP

NO

Is performing the activity, intervention, or role consistent with your:

- Graduate APRN role and education?
- National standards of practice?
- Current literature and evidenced based care/research?
- Institution policy/procedure?
- Institution accreditation standards?
- Reimbursement/payer requirements?

NO

STOP

YES

Is performing the activity, intervention, or role consistent with reasonable and prudent practice?

NO

STOP

YES

Do you have the necessary knowledge, skill and experience to perform the activity, intervention, or role safely?

NO

STOP

YES

Will you have the appropriate resources to perform the activity, intervention, or role in this setting?

NO

STOP

YES

Are you prepared and willing to:

- Manage the results for the activity, intervention, or role?
- Assume accountability and liability for your decisions and outcomes within your clinic or practice setting? Or,
- Are you approved or credentialed to provide in your practice setting?

NO

STOP

YES

The APRN may perform the activity, intervention, or role to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe care.

Maintain documentation that supports your ability to safely perform the activity, intervention, or role; such as formal or continuing education, certification, or documentation of patient experiences.