



# THE ADVANCED PRACTICE EMPOWERMENT ACT

**Summary:** This model policy ensures that advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) have full practice authority within their chosen area of expertise. APRNs include certified nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse midwives, and clinical nurse specialists. Under this policy, APRNs are not required to obtain a collaborative practice agreement with a licensed physician to practice within their scope of authority. However, if an APRN determines that a patient requires medical care that exceeds the scope of authority, the APRN must refer the patient to a physician or other healthcare provider.

## **Section 1. Definitions**

For purposes of this Act:

- (a) “Advanced practice registered nurse” (APRN) means an individual with knowledge and skills acquired in basic nursing education; licensure as a registered nurse (RN); graduation from, or completion of, a graduate-level APRN program accredited by a national accrediting body; and current certification by a national certifying body in the appropriate APRN role and at least (1) population focus. APRN includes certified nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse midwives, and clinical nurse specialists.
- (b) “Collaborative Practice Agreement” means a legally binding contract between an APRN and a licensed physician outlining the parameters of the health professional’s practice and the physician’s role.
- (c) “Full practice authority” means the authorization of APRNs to evaluate patients; diagnose, order, and interpret diagnostic tests; and initiate and manage treatments—including prescribing medications—under the exclusive licensure authority of the state board of nursing.



## **Section 2. Collaborative Practice Agreement Requirements Prohibited**

An advanced practice registered nurse, as defined by Section 1 of this Act, shall have full practice authority and shall not be required by [state board of health/relevant state agency] to obtain a written collaborative practice agreement as a condition of licensure, renewal, practice (including treatment and management of treatment), prescriptive authority, hospital credentialing, or insurance reimbursement.

## **Section 3. Scope of Authority**

(a) The practice of a licensed APRN shall include the following:

- (1) Performing acts of advanced assessment, including ordering and interpreting diagnostic procedures, prescribing, selecting, administering, and providing therapeutic measures and pharmacological agents, including over-the-counter, legend, and controlled substances;
- (2) Obtaining consultation, planning, and implementing collaborative management, referral, or transferring the care of the client as appropriate; and
- (3) Providing such functions for which the APRN is educationally and experientially prepared and which are consistent with standards established by a national credentialing or certification body recognized by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

(b) An APRN shall refer a patient to a physician or other healthcare provider if the APRN determines that the patient requires medical care that exceeds the APRN's scope of authority under this Act.

(c) The [state board of health/relevant state agency] shall not be authorized to promulgate any rule or regulation that limits or prohibits an APRN's practice authority under this Act.

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