



The Practice of Nursing and Scopes of Practice

The mission of the Ohio Board of Nursing is to actively safeguard the health of the public through the effective regulation of nursing care. The public expects nurses to obtain an adequate level of educational preparation, follow established practice standards, and provide competent nursing care. They also expect the Board to address unsafe practitioners so vulnerable populations, who nurses serve, are protected. Board operations are designed to meet these public expectations.

The Board recognizes nurses as a highly valued and integral part of the health care system, and supports nurses practicing to the full extent of their licensed scope of practice as defined in the Nurse Practice Act and administrative rules.

- Scopes of practice and regulatory requirements are specified in the Nurse Practice Act, Chapter 4723., Ohio Revised Code, and administrative rules, Chapters 4723-1 through 4723-27, Ohio Administrative Code.
- The scope of practice of licensed professionals is statutorily defined in state laws through practice acts. State legislatures have the authority to adopt or modify practice acts and scopes of practice.
 - The Board follows the direction of the legislature which establishes scopes of practice for the health care professions. The legislature grants the Board legal authority to regulate, not advocate on behalf of the nursing profession.
 - As health care continues to evolve and develop, legislative bodies consider changes to law to maximize the use of health care practitioners while ensuring nursing services are provided in a safe and effective manner to protect the public.
- As health care evolves, nurses may encounter new procedures, activities, or tasks and they may question if these may be performed as part of and within their scope of practice.
 - The Board provides Decision-Making Models based on relevant statutes and rules to assist nurses in making these types of decisions. Decision-Making Models are guides for determining whether a specific procedure, task, or activity is within the nurse's scope of practice and if so, is consistent with the standards of practice, appropriate to perform based on the nurse's knowledge and skills and is appropriate based on the clinical setting.
- Through its work with the Ohio Action Coalition, the Board has been pleased to support and advance nursing practice and the recommendations of the IOM Report: *The Future of Nursing*.
 - The Board looks forward to continuing this work through the Ohio Action Coalition in advancing the "*Future of Nursing 2020-2030*."

The Nurse Practice Act, administrative rules, and Decision-Making Models are available on the Board website at www.nursing.ohio.gov and Board staff is available to respond to practice questions through practiceRNandLPN@nursing.ohio.gov or practiceAPRN@nursing.ohio.gov.