The Roles of the APRN
An Education for Credentialing Staff

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Objectives

• Powers of WSBN
• APRN Forum Results and Action Plan
• Scope of Practice Authoritative Documents
• Consensus Model
• Graduate Core Education
• National Certification Exam
• How APRNs Benefit Your Patients and Strategic Plan
• Collaboration
Present
The Wyoming State Board of Nursing

MISSION: To serve and safeguard the people of Wyoming through the regulation of nursing education and practice.

VISION: Acknowledging the dynamic nature of healthcare, provide the climate, collaboration and regulatory framework for nurses to practice to the fullest extent of their scope.

APRNs; fully independent practitioners (1983)

WSBN Protecting the PUBLIC since 1907
WSBN - Powers

WSBN authority:
– Interpret and enforce NPA and Administrative Rules and Regulations
– Issue licenses/certificates
– Investigate alleged violations
– Assure compliance of Board orders
– Research evidenced-based practice
– Oversight of nursing education and programs
2017 Focus Groups

Goal: Connect with APRNs and assess their needs within WSBN’s role as the regulatory agency for the profession
Focus Groups 2017

- Invitation by counties
- Open discussions lasting 2-3 hours
- Four (4) questions were asked:
  - What is your knowledge of NPA and Rules?
  - What is your knowledge of the Consensus Model?
  - What is your knowledge of your scope of practice regarding population foci?
  - What are items of concern to your APRN practice?
Answers We Received

• Knowledge of NPA and Rules = most had never read or accessed them

• Knowledge of Consensus Model = most did not know how it influenced graduate education and core competencies

• Knowledge of scope of practice regarding population foci = majority did not know location in rules or NPA or its definition

Special thanks to those who participated
“The essential documents from the profession serve as the foundation for legislation and regulatory policy-making that help assure the PUBLIC’s safety.” (ANA, 2017)
Focus Groups: Top Ten Take-Aways

10) WY hospitals have bylaws that require MD oversight
9) Public unfamiliar with APRN role
8) Most APRNs think a DNP is not advantageous
7) Disconnect among APRNs
6) Access to care issues and APRNs are not filling the void

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Top Ten (cont)

5) Federal statutes restrict reimbursement
4) **Blurring** of hospital roles [ER/acute/primary/urgent]
3) APRNs have varied and extensive nursing experience
2) **Employers** do not understand four (4) APRN roles or population foci
1) APRNs are passionate!

WSBN Protecting the **PUBLIC** since 1907
WSBN’s Action Plan

- Educate employers and public about the four (4) roles/scope of APRNs
- Evaluate evidence-based practice and certification standards; monitor trends
- Educate APRNs on the Wyoming NPA and Administrative Rules and Regulations
- Educate Wyoming Legislators regarding APRN roles/scope
- Investigate national trends effecting regulation (rural/frontier nursing needs)
- Encourage discussion about rural/frontier nursing needs/issues at the national level
- Engage in communication with national nursing leaders
Scope of Practice for APRNs

The **Wyoming Nurse Practice Act** is located in statutes 33-21-101 to 33-21-302 (section 302 Specific to APRNs eNLC) CHAPTER 21 - NURSES

https://legisweb.state.wy.us/NXT/gateway.dll/2017%20Wyoming%20Statutes/2017%20Titles/1642/1678?f=templates&fn=document-frameset.htm&q=%5Brank%3A%5Bsum%3A%5Bstem%3Anursing%5D%5D%5D&amp;x=server&amp;vid=Publish:10.1048/Enu

**Article 3** of the NPA, eNLC implementation: adopted APRN standards:https://legisweb.state.wy.us/NXT/gateway.dll?f=template&fn=default.htm


**Advisory Opinions** https://nursing-online.state.wy.us/Default.aspx?page=56
APRN Standards

Wyoming Administrative Rules and Regulations; Chapter 3, Section 3:
a (i): “Subject at all times to the standards and scope of practice established by
national organizations and/or accrediting agencies representing the various core,
role and population focus for APRNs and the NPA.”

Define:

National Organization = American Nurses Association and National Council State
Boards of Nursing
Accrediting Agencies = ANCC, AACN, etc. (national)
Core = Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) core competencies of graduate
level education
Role = Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Clinical Nurse Specialist
(CNS), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)
Population Focus = (6) Family, Adult/Gero, Neonatal, Pediatrics, Women’s Health,
Psychiatric/Mental Health [further defined; primary care, acute care]
Setting = location where the care takes place (hospital, clinic, school, ER, home)
The goals of the consensus processes were to: • strive for harmony and common understanding in the APRN regulatory community that would continue to promote quality APRN education and practice; • develop a vision for APRN regulation, including education, accreditation, certification, and licensure; APRN Joint Dialogue Group Report, July 7, 2008 21 • establish a set of standards that protect the public, improve mobility, and improve access to safe, quality APRN care; and • produce a written statement that reflects consensus on APRN regulatory issues [https://www.ncsbn.org/Consensus_Model_Report.pdf]
Core Education Examples

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Adv Pathophysiology
- Adv Pharmacology
- Adv Pharmacotherapy
- Adv Health Assessment
- Differential Diagnosis
- Practicum for Wellness for Adults in Primary Care
- Practicum for Primary Care for Children, Adolescents, and Families
- Practicum for Primary Care for Adults I & II

Acute Care Adult-Gero Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP)
- Adv Pathophysiology
- Adv Pharmacology
- Adv Pharmacotherapy
- Adv Health Assessment
- Differential Diagnosis
- Practicum for Acute Care Adult
- Practicum for Acute Care Geriatrics
Curriculum Comparison

Family Nurse Practitioner Role
- https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/msn/fnp/index.php

- Population focus of FNP
  - Primary care across the lifespan, all ages birth to death

Primary care = wellness, vaccines, chronic illness maintenance

Acute Care Adult-Gero NP Role
- https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/msn/agacnp/index.php

- Population Focus of ACAGNP
  - Acute care for adults 18 and over and geriatric patients

Acute care = gunshot, cardiac arrest, trauma, emergency care

https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/msn/postmasters_certificate/index.php
ANCC National Certification Exam

FNP
- [http://nursecredentialing.org/FamilyNP](http://nursecredentialing.org/FamilyNP)

AGACNP
- [http://nursecredentialing.org/AdultGeroAcuteCareNP](http://nursecredentialing.org/AdultGeroAcuteCareNP)

Knowledge exams based on core competencies of graduate education received

National accrediting agencies usually do not use experience [portfolio] as a qualification to sit for an APRN exam

Other national accrediting agency exams available and acceptable such as; American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Pediatric Nursing Association, etc. (24)
Benefits of APRNs in Acute Care Settings

• ANA – Position Statements
  http://www.nursingworld.org/positionstatements

• AANP (nurse practitioner)– Position Statements
  https://www.aanp.org/publications/position-statements-papers

• APNA (psychiatric) – Scope & Standards
  https://www.apna.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3342

• AANA (nurse anesthetists)
  https://www.aana.com/
Key Points

• No WY statute or rules have been changed (2007)
• WSBN is mandated to investigate complaints received, which may include, allegations of practicing outside of scope
• The Board has chosen to provide education as a means to correct misunderstandings of the APRN Scope of Practice as defined in NPA and Administrative Rules and Regulations
• Certification renewal documents will be requested of licensees this year
How Can Employers Support APRNs?

• Recognize value of APRNs on the care team
• Identify credentialing process specific to APRNs
• Specify job descriptions, duties & qualifications according to APRN standards
  – Bylaw language
• Offer peer review among APRN colleagues
• Offer tuition assistance for post-graduate programs (see list)
• Engage your APRNs, shared governance
• Ask for help from WSBN or WYAPN association
NURSYS

- [www.nursys.com](http://www.nursys.com)
- FREE
- Verification of licensure
- LPN, RN, APRN
- Identify discipline
- Identify single state or multi-state
Receive license notifications
• Set email alerts for license status changes
• Choose notification frequency
• Send expiration reminders to nurses

View nurse license reports
• Learn of license expirations
• See information about discipline/final order actions
• Get nurse license summary reports

Manage your nurse license list
• Search the system for nurses to add to your list
• Add multiple nurses at once using file upload
• Remove a nurse from your list or deactivate your notifications
• Integrate with your systems using our application programming interface (API)
How Can WSBN Help?

• List of graduate programs and post-graduate certification programs
• Continue education [presentations, WNR]
• Review of new or updated job descriptions for compliance with Wyoming NPA and Administrative Rules and Regulations
• ANCC discussion [rural health acute care certification exam, 2019]
• Support? 307-777-6127 Jennifer Burns
Thank You!

On behalf of the Board we thank you for your invitation to present education on the Wyoming NPA and Administrative Rules and Regulations to the leaders of Wyoming medical centers.

A special thank you to the Wyoming Healthcare Association.
References

• Billeaudeau v. Opelousas General Hospital
APRN Population Focus

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of _X__APRN  ___RN  ___LPN  ___CNA

ADVISORY OPINION
APRN POPULATION FOCUS

In accordance with Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 33-21-122(c)(iii) of the Wyoming Nursing Practice Act (NPA), the Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) has approved the following Advisory Opinion on APRN Population Focus.

WSBN’s Rules and Regulations define the scope and standards of nursing practice for the APRN as follows:
(i) The APRN is subject at all times to the standards and scope of practice established by national professional organizations and/or accrediting agencies representing the various core, role and population focus areas for APRNs, and the NPA.

(ii) The Board recognizes APRN core, role and population focus areas described in the scope of practice statements for APRNs issued by national professional organizations and/or accrediting agencies.

(iii) Role and population focus of the APRN shall be declared, and the role and population focus to be utilized shall be the title(s) granted by nationally recognized professional organization(s) and/or accrediting agency(ies) or the title(s) of the role and population focus of nursing practice in which the APRN has received postgraduate education preparation.

(iv) In order to practice in one of the four roles and in a defined population, the APRN shall be recognized by the Board in that particular role with a population focus of advanced practice nursing.

Rules Wyo. Dept. of Admin. & Info., Bd. of Nursing, Ch. 3, § 2(a)(i-iv) (Dec. 2013). Therefore, an APRN may only practice within the role and population focus for which he/she is licensed and recognized by the WSBN.
Frequently Asked Questions Regarding APRN Job Roles

*What is the difference between the terms APRN and Nurse Practitioner?* The term APRN stands for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and consists of four roles: Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists. All four roles have full, independent practice authority in the state of Wyoming since approximately 1983. All four roles do not require physician oversight of any kind under the Wyoming Nurse Practice Act. All four roles may treat patients within their identified population foci to the extent of their graduate education and competency.

*Can FNPs educated in primary care work in a hospital setting?* The setting is not specific to the care of the patients, however the population foci (type of patients) must be adhered to as defined in the Wyoming Nurse Practice Act and by national standards. For example, an FNP may treat patients in an outpatient clinic of the hospital. Generally, outpatient clinic patrons are not acutely ill and have little chance of being admitted, nor are in acute stages of their illness. A second example, an FNP who specializes in oncology care; may work in a cancer care clinic attached to the hospital, providing outpatient oncology care to patients who will essentially return home at the end of the treatment day. The University of Wyoming has this FNP educational program.

*Can FNPs educated in primary care work in the Emergency Room?* Again, the setting is not specific to the care of the patients, it is the population foci (type of patients) that must be adhered to according to the Wyoming Nurse Practice Act. Are the patients being treated for illness such as dog bites, broken bone, back pain, flu, dehydration, UTI or abdominal pain and will most likely return home? Then, they are appropriate for an FNP. If patients arrive with drug overdose, cardiac arrest, stroke or trauma with the high probability of being admitted to the ICU, and are considered acutely ill and would be out of the population foci of a primary care nurse practitioner. We have 441 FNPs in the state.

*I am a Cardiologist and I hired an FNP who was a previous cardiac nurse to work in my office. Can she make rounds on our hospital in-patients for me?* Your usually stable patient is now under care for acute exacerbation of illness, therefore, those admitted patients are not in the scope of the primary care trained FNP. Her previous years of acute care experience as a registered nurse do not expand her population foci from primary care to acute care services as an APRN provider. If you intend to utilize a nurse practitioner in such a capacity, they must be dually certified in primary care and acute care. We have less than 10 dually certified in the state.

*We want to hire a Nurse Practitioner to work on our Hospitalist team. What kind should we recruit?* Since the team will only be serving in-patient, acutely ill adult patients, an Adult-Gero Acute Care Nurse Practitioner is most appropriate (AG-ACNP). Please note, this NP will not be able to see pediatric patients as her population is only Adult-Gero. If you require the Hospitalist team to cover pediatric patients, the NP must be a Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (P-ACNP). We have 67 Acute Care Adult-Gero NPs and 18 Pediatric NPs in the state.

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We have an inpatient psychiatric unit and want an NP to provide care to all admitted mental health patients. Can an FNP oversee the inpatient care? The most appropriate provider for these patients is a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMH-NP). A Mental Health NP can provide psychiatric services in primary and/or acutely ill patients across the lifespan. The University of Wyoming has this educational program. An AG-ACNP can also fill this job description, but may treat only adults. We have 85 PMH-NPs in the state.

We have recruited a DNP? What is she? DNP stands for Doctor of Nursing Practice. It is a level of education not a role. A DNP is the highest terminal degree for clinical practice in nursing. You must ask her what her role is; she may be a DNP Certified Nurse Midwife, or a DNP- FNP (Family Nurse Practitioner of primary care with a doctoral level education). She may be a DNP of nursing education or leadership, not a clinical role or patient provider at all.

Can a Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM) deliver babies in a hospital? Indeed yes! An unfortunately under-utilized, yet inexpensive option for rural ob/gyn units. Please hire more Certified Nurse Midwives! We have 26 Midwives and 9 Neonatal Nurse Practitioners.

What procedures can a Certified Nurse Anesthetists do? She can perform whatever she was trained for under her graduate education program. The best determinant answer would be from the CRNA herself or the National Association of CRNA. We have 154 CRNAs in the state, another seemingly under utilized provider.

How can I as an Employer support my APRNs who work for me? Employers are keenly aware of the benefits of having APRNs on their provider teams. Many evidence based studies show APRNs provide unique emphasis on the health and well-being of the whole person. With a focus on health promotion, disease prevention, and health education and counseling, NPs guide patients in making smarter health and lifestyle choices, which in turn lower patients' out-of-pocket costs. Data shows patients with NPs as their primary care provider often have fewer emergency room visits, shorter hospital stays and lower medication costs. As an employer, work with your credentialing team to develop job descriptions that allow our APRNs to practice to the full extent of their education. Support APRNs who want to return to graduate school by offering tuition reimbursement and flexible hours to complete clinical rotations. Develop a shared governance policy and culture by having APRNs on your leadership teams. Support APRNs with peer to peer opportunities. Stay abreast of national trends and the role APRNs play in filling voids in access to health care in our state. Reach out to the Wyoming State Board of Nursing for advice and assistance, we are here to support! 307-777-6127.

Additional Resources:

http://www.nursingworld.org/EspeciallyForYou/AdvancedPracticeNurses

https://www.aanp.org/

https://www.apna.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3844

https://www.nbcrna.com/

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