

**COLORADO COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK SCOPE OF PRACTICE MATRIX
FIELD OF PRACTICE: NURSING (BOARD OF NURSING)**

Prepared by: Jennifer Mattern, Clinical Projects Coordinator, CCHN
June 2003

	ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES: NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP)
SCOPE OF PRACTICE DEFINITION	<p>According to the Colorado Nurse Practice Act: "12-38-111.5. Requirements for advanced practice nurse registration - legislative declaration - definition - advanced practice registry. (1) The general assembly hereby recognizes that some individuals practicing pursuant to this article have acquired additional preparation for advanced practice and hereby determines that it is appropriate for the state to maintain a registry of such individuals. Such registry shall be known as the "advanced practice registry".</p> <p>(2) As used in this section, "advanced practice nurse" means a professional nurse who is licensed to practice pursuant to this article, who obtains specialized education or training as provided in this section, and who applies to and is accepted by the board for inclusion in the advanced practice registry.</p> <p>(3) The board shall establish the advanced practice registry and shall require that a nurse applying for registration identify such nurse's area of specialty. The board shall establish reasonable criteria for designation of specific specialties based on currently accepted professional standards. A nurse who is included in the advanced practice registry has the right to use the title "advanced practice nurse" or, if authorized by the board, to use the title "certified nurse midwife", "clinical nurse specialist", "certified registered nurse anesthetist", or "nurse practitioner". These titles may be abbreviated as "A.P.N.", "C.N.M.", "C.N.S.", "C.R.N.A.", or "N.P.", respectively. It is unlawful for any person to use any of the titles or abbreviations listed in this subsection (3) unless included in the registry and authorized by the board to do so.</p> <p>(5) A nurse who meets the definition of advanced practice nurse, as defined in subsection (2) of this section, and the requirements of section 12-38-111.6, may be granted prescriptive authority as a function in addition to those defined in section 12-38-103 (10).</p> <p>According to the Colorado Society of Advanced Practice Nurses website (http://www.csapn.org/):</p> <p>Definition: Advanced Practice Nurses</p> <p>Advanced Practice Nurse is actually an umbrella term used to cover nurse practitioners (NP's), clinical nurse specialists (CNS's), nurse midwives, and nurse anesthetists. Colorado statutes define an advanced practice nurse (APN) as a professional nurse who has acquired additional specialized education and training and applies to and is accepted by the board of nursing for inclusion in the advanced practice registry. Requirements for inclusion in the advanced practice registry include the successful completion of a nationally accredited education program in the appropriate specialty or a passing score on a certification examination of a nationally recognized accrediting agency, or both. On and after July 1, 2008 the requirements for inclusion in the advanced practice registry will include the successful completion of a graduate degree in the appropriate specialty.</p>

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<p>SCOPE OF PRACTICE DEFINITION (ORAL HEALTH)</p>	<p>Definition: Nurse Practitioner</p> <p>A nurse practitioner (NP) is a master's prepared nurse who provides primary care to individuals and families or communities. The setting may be in ambulatory care, acute care, or long term care. NP's may serve as health care researchers, interdisciplinary consultants, educators, and patient advocates. Health promotion and disease prevention are emphasized. NP's practice autonomously and in collaboration with health care professionals and other individuals to diagnose treat, and manage the patient's health problems. Some of the services provided include: ordering, conducting, and interpreting diagnostic and laboratory tests, and prescription of pharmacological agents as well as non-pharmacological therapies. The NP diagnoses and manages acute episodic and chronic illnesses for a wide base of patients, depending upon area of certification. Teaching and counseling are a major part of the NP role.</p> <p>According to the NP Central Website (http://www.npcentral.net):</p> <p>What Services Do NPs Provide?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain medical histories and perform physical examinations Provide immunizations and other preventative child care Diagnose and treat illnesses Identify, treat, and manage chronic diseases such as diabetes and arthritis Order and interpret diagnostic tests such as x-rays, blood work, and EKG's Prescribe medications Prescribe physical therapy, message therapy, and other rehabilitation therapy Provide education to allow patients to make decisions about their own health Perform procedures such as suturing, casting, cryotherapy, and skin biopsy Refer to other health care providers <p>There are no explicit exemptions for APN's or NP's in the Dental Practice Law of Colorado</p>
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	REGISTERED NURSE (RN)
SCOPE OF PRACTICE DEFINITION	<p>According to the Colorado Nurse Practice Act: "12-38-103. (10) (a) "Practice of professional nursing" means the performance of both independent nursing functions and delegated medical functions in accordance with accepted practice standards. Such functions include the initiation and performance of nursing care through health promotion, supportive or restorative care, disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human disease, ailment, pain, injury, deformity, and physical or mental condition using specialized knowledge, judgment, and skill involving the application of biological, physical, social, and behavioral science principles required for licensure as a professional nurse pursuant to section 12-38-111.</p> <p>(b) The "practice of professional nursing" shall include the performance of such services as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (I) Evaluating health status through the collection and assessment of health data; (II) Health teaching and health counseling; (III) Providing therapy and treatment that is supportive and restorative to life and well-being either directly to the patient or indirectly through consultation with, delegation to, supervision of, or teaching of others; (IV) Executing delegated medical functions; (V) Referring to medical or community agencies those patients who need further evaluation or treatment; (VI) Reviewing and monitoring therapy and treatment plans. <p>(11) "Registered nurse" or "registered professional nurse" means a professional nurse, and only a person who holds a license to practice professional nursing in this state pursuant to the provisions of this article shall have the right to use the title "registered nurse" and its abbreviation, "R.N."."</p> <p>According to the Colorado Board of Nursing Website (http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing/): <i>Scope Of Practice For The Registered Nurse (RN)</i></p> <p>In Colorado, the practice of professional nursing (<u>including</u> those listed on the advanced practice registry) includes the performance of both independent nursing functions and delegated medical functions. The Board of Nursing (BON) considers RNs to be independent practitioners.</p> <p>Two things limit the independent scope of nursing practice: Task/practice must be within the field of nursing, and RN must possess the specialized knowledge, judgment and skill required to complete the job/task undertaken. There is no BON requirement for physician oversight of nurses during the course of independent nursing practice. However, individual facilities or physician practices may have policies requiring some level of physician involvement or oversight.</p> <p>Dependent nursing function falls under delegated medical. CRS 12-38-103 (4) defines delegated medical function to include the RN implementation of a medical plan. "...a written plan, verbal order, standing order, or protocol - whether patient</p>

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	<p>specific or not, that authorizes specific or discretionary medical action, which may include but is not limited to the selection of medication." The amount of physician oversight would be determined by the physician and nurse involved in this process.</p> <p><i>Determining Your RN Scope Of Practice</i></p> <p>The Board of Nursing has been working to empower Colorado nurses to determine their own scope of practice. The Board's mission is the regulation of nursing practice in Colorado; this regulation does not mean dictating how individual nurses should carry out that practice, but whether or not the practice meets the standards established by the Nurse Practice Act. Using the following guidelines and the attached flow chart, a nurse may decide what is within scope, and to make certain the task or practice is documented in facility or institution policies and procedures.</p> <p>Begin by asking the following question: Is this task/practice within my scope of practice?</p> <p>A. Basic Nursing Education Preparation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was the skill/task taught in your basic nursing program? <p>OR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. If it was not included in your basic nursing education, have you since completed a comprehensive training program, which included clinical experience? 3. Has this task has become so routine in the nursing literature and in nursing practice (e.g. sharp wound debridement), it can be reasonably and prudently assumed within scope? 4. Is the skill/task in your hiring agency policy and procedure manual? 5. Does carrying out the duty pass the "Reasonable and Prudent" standard for nursing? <p>If you can answer, "yes" to all the above questions, the task is within your scope of practice and you do not need to seek a practice question decision from the Board. If you cannot answer "yes" to all of the above, proceed to option B.</p> <p>B. If you answer "no" to any of the questions above, consider two possible outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The task is not within your scope of practice - Omit task 2. The task may not be within your scope of practice - Request Board of Nursing advisory opinion if needed.
<p>SCOPE OF PRACTICE (ORAL HEALTH)</p>	<p>Permitted to provide preventive oral health services.¹</p> <p>The only services specified in the Dental Practice Law of Colorado nurses may provide is "the giving by a qualified anesthetist or registered nurse of an anesthetic for a dental operation under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist." C.R.S. 12-25-111.</p>

¹ Center for Health Services Research and Policy, The Effects of State Dental Practice Laws Allowing Alternative Models of Preventive Oral Health Care Delivery to Low-Income Children, January 2003, (Washington, DC: George Washington University Medical Center, 2003) 185.

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Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	
SCOPE OF PRACTICE DEFINITION	<p><i>According to the Colorado Nurse Practice Act: "12-38-103. (8) "Practical nurse", "trained practical nurse", "licensed vocational nurse", or "licensed practical nurse" means a person who holds a license to practice pursuant to the provisions of this article as a licensed practical nurse in this state, with the right to use the title "licensed practical nurse" and its abbreviation, "L.P.N."</i></p> <p>(9) "Practice of practical nursing" means the performance, under the supervision of a dentist, physician, podiatrist, or professional nurse authorized to practice in this state, of those services requiring the education, training, and experience, as evidenced by knowledge, abilities, and skills required in this article for licensing as a practical nurse pursuant to section 12-38-112, in caring for the ill, injured, or infirm, in teaching and promoting preventive health measures, in acting to safeguard life and health, or in administering treatments and medications prescribed by a legally authorized dentist, podiatrist, or physician, or physician assistant implementing a medical plan pursuant to subsection (4) of this section. Nothing in this article shall limit or deny a practical nurse from supervising other practical nurses or other health care personnel."</p> <p>According to the Colorado Board of Nursing Website (http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing/): Scope Of Practice For The Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) The Nurse Practice Act defines the scope of practice of the Licensed Practical nurse as that which is taught in schools of practical nursing in Colorado at this time. Therefore, all decisions regarding which tasks may be performed by a LPN are based on the present curriculum criteria. The LPN curriculum in Colorado is a 9 to 11 month course focusing on the care of patients with predictable outcomes. The curriculum emphasizes the maintenance of those patients and performance of nursing skills with a high degree of technical expertise. The practical nursing student is taught to identify normal from abnormal in each of the body systems and to identify changes in the patient's condition which are then reported to the RN or MD for further or "full" assessment. For further information regarding the specific tasks and skills taught in the LPN curriculum, you may wish to contact one of the many Colorado colleges offering an LPN program.</p>
SCOPE OF PRACTICE (ORAL HEALTH)	There are no explicit exemptions for LPN's in the Dental Practice Law of Colorado

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	Certified Nurse Aide (CNA)
SCOPE OF PRACTICE DEFINITION	<p>According to the Nurse Aide Practice Act of Colorado: "12-38.1-102. (3) "Certified nurse aide" means a person who meets the qualifications specified in this article and who is currently certified by the board. Only a person who holds a certificate to practice as a nurse aide in this state pursuant to the provisions of this article shall have the right to use the title "Certified Nurse Aide" and its abbreviation, "C.N.A."</p> <p>(5)"Practice of a nurse aide" or "nursing aide practice" means the performance of services requiring the education, training, and skills specified in this article for certification as a nurse aide. Such services are performed under the supervision of a dentist, physician, podiatrist, professional nurse, licensed practical nurse, or other licensed or certified health care professional acting within the scope of his license or certificate."</p>
CERTIFICATION	<p>A CNA can become certified either by endorsement or a competency evaluation.</p> <p>"12-38.1-105. Application for certification by competency evaluation. (1) Every applicant for certification by competency evaluation shall pay the required application fee and shall submit written evidence that said applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Has not committed any act or omission that would be grounds for discipline or denial of certification under this article; (b) Has successfully completed an approved education program; and (c) Has had a criminal background check conducted within the ninety-day period prior to submittal. <p>12-38.1-106. Application for certification by endorsement. (1) Every applicant for certification by endorsement shall pay the required application fee, shall submit the information required by the board in the manner and form specified by the board, and shall submit written evidence that said applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Is certified to practice as a nurse aide by another state or territory of the United States with requirements that are essentially similar to the requirements for certification set out in this article and that such certification is in good standing; (b) Has not committed any act or omission that would be grounds for discipline or denial of certification under this article; (c) Has successfully completed an education program approved by the board or a nurse aide training program that meets the standards for such programs specified in this article and those standards set by the board; (d) Has no record of abuse, negligence, or misappropriation of resident's property or any disciplinary action taken or pending in any other state or territory against such certification; and (e) Has had a criminal background check conducted within the ninety-day period prior to submittal. <p>12-38.1-107. Certification by competency evaluation. (1) All applicants except those certified by endorsement shall be required to pass a clinical competency evaluation. Such evaluation shall be in a written or oral form and shall include the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Basic nursing skills; (b) Personal care skills; (c) Recognition of mental health and social services needs;

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	(d) Basic restorative services; (e) Resident or patient rights. (2) Competency evaluations shall be held at such times and places as the board determines but shall be held at least four times per year.”
SCOPE OF PRACTICE (ORAL HEALTH)	There are no explicit exemptions for CNA’s in the Dental Practice Law of Colorado

The Colorado Nurse Practice Act can be found at: <http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing/statutesandrules/npa.htm>