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OPINION: APRN Prescriptive Authority
APPROVED DATE: February 8, 2022
REVIEWED DATE: 06/24, 03/25
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ORIGINATING COMMITTEE: Practice Committee

The WSBN publishes advisory opinions in accordance with Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 33-21-122 (c)(iii). While an advisory opinion is not law, it is the WSBN's official opinion on whether specific nursing procedures, policies, and other practices comply with the standards of nursing practice in Wyoming. Facility policy may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training, and supervision to assure patient safety. The nurse/CNA remains accountable for all care they provide. If the individual does not have the education, knowledge, and skills to safely provide care, that activity is not permitted regardless of the determination of the advisory opinion.

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of ☒ APRN ☐ RN ☐ LPN ☐ CNA

ADVISORY OPINION

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Prescriptive Authority

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) receives frequent questions regarding prescriptive authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

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 prescriptive authority for APRNs.

Wyo. Stat. § 33-21-120(a)(i)(A) defines the APRNs as nurses who:
may prescribe, administer, dispense, or provide nonprescriptive and prescriptive medications including prepackaged medications, except schedule I drugs as defined in W.S. 35-7-1013 and 35-7-1014;

Per the Administrative Rules of the WSBN, Chapter 1, Section 8:

(s) "Prescriptive authority" means the authority granted by the Board to the APRN to select, prescribe, administer, dispense, or provide prescriptive and non-prescriptive medications including, but not limited to, vaccines, immunizing agents and devices.

The statute includes prescriptive authority as part of the definition of an APRN, thus **prescriptive authority is required for all Wyoming licensed APRNs**. While CRNAs do not customarily write prescriptions, they are still APRNs. In addition, CRNAs administer medications that require prescriptive authority.

Initial application:

The initial application for prescriptive authority must include a copy of transcripts documenting a course in advanced pharmacology.

Renewal:

Prescriptive authority will be renewed bi-annually with the renewal of the APRN license. APRNs are required to complete three (3) hours of continuing education related to the responsible prescribing of controlled substances or the treatment of substance abuse disorders.

Controlled Substances:

The prescriptive authority is activated when the APRN license is issued. If the APRN wants to prescribe and or dispense controlled substances, in addition to the prescriptive authority, they will also need apply for and obtain a Wyoming Controlled Substance Registration and a DEA registration for Wyoming.

References:

United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). <https://www.dea.gov/who-we-are/contact-us>

Wyoming Board of Pharmacy. (n.d.). Individual Controlled Substance Registration. Retrieved from:
<https://pharmacyboard.wyo.gov/licensing/controlled-substance-reg>