

Maryland Nurse Practitioner 2010 Regulatory Changes

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**The Nurse Practitioner Association of
Maryland (NPAM)**

What is a Nurse Practitioner?

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are advanced practice nurses (RNs with additional education, experience and training) who assess, diagnose, and manage health-related problems. NPs:

- Have experience working as registered nurses
- Are Master or Doctoral prepared
- Complete 600+ hours of clinical internship
- Must pass national certification exam and state licensing

What can NPs Do?

- Serve as PCPs (Primary Care Providers)
- Prescribe medications, including Schedule II-V
- Order diagnostic tests and treatments
- Bill Medicare, Medicaid, and most commercial payers

What can NPs Do (cont.)?

- Manage hospitalized patients
- Provide preventive services and health counseling/education
- Provide acute care and specialty services
- Provide consult services
- Refer to other health care providers

Barriers

- 19 page written collaborative agreement between the NP and a physician in the same area of practice, had to be approved by 2 boards, took up to 6 months
- Physician centric language in statute
- Limited credentialing and reimbursement by insurance companies
- Attitudes and culture

Institute of Medicine Consensus Report, Oct 5, 2010

- With more than 3 million members, the nursing profession is the largest segment of the nation's health care workforce. Working on the front lines of patient care, nurses can play a vital role in helping realize the objectives set forth in the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

IOM Report (cont.)

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system with seamless progression.
- Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care.
- Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and information infrastructure.

Maryland Scope of Practice

- *"A nurse practitioner may perform independently the following functions :*
(under the terms and conditions of the written agreement)
 - *Performing comprehensive physical assessment of patients;*
 - *Establishing medical diagnosis for common short-term or chronic stable health problems*
 - *Ordering, performing, and interpreting laboratory tests*
 - *Prescribing drugs*
 - *Performing therapeutic or corrective measures*
 - *Referring patients to appropriate licensed physicians or other health care providers*
 - *Providing emergency care"*

(COMAR 10.27.07.02)

Statutory Changes

- Eliminated the requirement of a written collaborative agreement.
- In its place, NPs will be submitting an “attestation” document to declare and affirm that they have named a collaborator and adhere to the Nurse Practice Act and all rules governing the scope of practice for their certification.
- Effective October 1, submitted when change jobs or renew license.

Attestation Form

- "I will collaborate and consult with the above named physician and other health care providers as needed and will practice in accordance with my education, scope of practice, and within the standards of practice of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners or any other national certifying body recognized by the Maryland Board of Nursing."

Timeline

- A nurse practitioner cannot practice until the attestation has been received, reviewed, and listed on the BON website.
- Attestation information will be posted 7-10 business days after receipt, and the NP may start practice.
- Final approval will be posted after the board meeting, the 4th Tuesday each month.

Addendum Form

- The NP will submit to the BON an addendum form containing proof of competency in any procedures that will be performed that were not part of the original educational program (colposcopy, skin biopsy, cyst removal)
- The NP will submit a copy of the attestation form to the MD Div of Drug Control when applying for CDS and DEA

Health Care delivered by NPs

Results in:

- High quality care
- Cost effective care
- High patient satisfaction
- Value-added care

Summary

Why is the NP approach successful?

- NP are educated in providing integrated and holistic health care—different from the physician model
- Patient centered focus
- Prevention specialists
- Mind, body and spirit approach
- Excellent at collaborating and coordinating
- Expertise in both nursing and medical frameworks