

Definition:

Full practice authority is the collection of state **practice** and licensure laws that allow for nurse practitioners to evaluate patients, diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, initiate and manage treatments—including prescribe medications—under the exclusive licensure **authority** of the of the state board of nursing.

19 states have FPA for advance practice nurses.

EVIDENCE:

M. Laurant et al (2005) performed a review of the literature found “that appropriately trained nurses can produce as high quality care as primary care doctors and achieve as good health outcomes for patients.”

“None of the studies in NGA’s literature review raise concerns about the quality of care offered by NPs. Most studies showed that NP-provided care is comparable to physician-provided care on several process and outcome measures. Moreover, the studies suggest that NPs may provide improved access to care.” National Governors Association Report on The Role of Nurse Practitioners in Meeting Increasing Demand for Primary Care (2012)

Why TN needs FPA For Advanced Practice Nursing:

- Avoids duplication of services and billing costs associated with physician oversight. Reduces repetition of orders, office visits and care services.
- Allows patients to see the healthcare provider of their choice.
- Provides patients direct access to the full range of services that APRNs can offer at the point of care. Removes delays in care that are created by dated regulations requiring a physician signature, collaboration or protocol before a patient can initiate treatments or obtain diagnostic tests that are ordered by an APRN.
- Enhancing primary care for Tennesseans is an important step in improving the health status of our citizens in a state that routinely is ranked among the lowest in national surveys. APRNs are often the only health care provider in rural areas.

Next Steps to Gaining FPA:

- Development of legislation in collaboration with an identified state congressman or senator by TNA Government Affairs Committee
- Presentation of legislation for legislative session by legislator
- Aggressive Lobby Efforts by TNA, other professional org collaborators and APNs

How you can help:

- Contact your state legislators, meet with them send a letter
- Encourage your peers to Join TNA and participate
- FPA toolkit:
 - <https://tac.tennessee.edu/reports/Documents/FPApoints.pdf>