

## **Advanced Practice Nurses Elevator Speech**

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are licensed, clinicians focused on managing health conditions and preventing disease. APRNs provide primary, acute, and specialty healthcare services to diverse populations. There are four types of APRNs: Nurse Practitioners, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Clinical Nurse Specialists. APRN practice is regulated by the Board of Nursing.

Removing unnecessary and antiquated rules and regulations would allow APRNs to practice to the fullest extent of their training and education. Advanced Practice Nurses provide care that is safe, patient-centered, effective, high-quality, and cost-effective. Removing practice barriers from APRNs would increase access to care and choice of providers. A patient-centered interdisciplinary team approach in which APRNs consult and collaborate with their physician colleagues as well as other healthcare providers should be the goal to achieve the best patient outcomes.

## **Access to Care Coalition Talking Points**

### **Who:**

Advanced Practice Nurses (APRNs) include: Nurse Practitioners, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Clinical Nurse Specialists.

- APRNs are licensed, clinicians focused on managing health conditions and preventing disease.
- APRNs are licensed and regulated by the Board of Nursing.
- Each APRN classification receives specialty education and training. Depending on certification type, APRNs provide primary, acute, and specialty healthcare services to diverse populations in every type of healthcare setting.
- It is important to note that APRNs practice differently based on their respective specialty.

### **Currently:**

Tennessee APRN practice regulations related to prescribing impose unnecessary restrictions. APRNs with prescriptive authority must meet specific requirements:

- Board of Nursing Advanced Practice Nurses and Certificates of Fitness to Prescribe Rule 1000-04.
- Board of Medical Examiners Rules and Regulations Governing the Utilization and Supervision of the Services of a Nurse Practitioner/Prescription Writer Rule 0880-06.

These requirements result in higher costs and practice restrictions that can limit access to care for patients, particularly those in rural areas.

### **How will this benefit Tennessee?**

Removing unnecessary and antiquated rules and regulations will increase healthcare access for Tennesseans, allowing more choices. According to the 2018 Annual Report, America's Health Rankings, Tennessee is 43<sup>rd</sup> in the country in health indicators – making it one of the least healthy states. It is worthy to note that the five healthiest states have APRN Full Practice Authority or much less onerous regulations than TN.

Allowing APRNs to practice to full scope of their respective training and education without unnecessary practice barriers will provide more options for the delivery of safe, high-quality and cost-effective, healthcare resulting in better patient outcomes.

## References

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Tennessee Code:

TCA 63-7-101, TCA 63-7-123, Board of Nursing Advanced Practice Nurses and Certificates of Fitness to Prescribe Rule 1000-04, Board of Medical Examiner Nurse Practitioner/Prescription Writer Rule 0880-06