## Section 1. Title and Scope of Practice

a. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) is the title given to an individual licensed to practice advanced practice registered nursing within one of the following roles: certified nurse practitioner (CNP), certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), certified nurse-midwife (CNM) or clinical nurse specialist (CNS), and who functions in a population focus as set forth in rule. An APRN may serve as primary or acute care provider of record.

b. Population focus shall include:
   1. Family/individual across the lifespan
   2. Adult-gerontology
   3. Neonatal
   4. Pediatrics
   5. Women’s health/gender-related or
   6. Psychiatric/mental health

c. In addition to the RN scope of practice and within the APRN role and population focus, APRN practice shall include:
   1. Conducting an advanced assessment
   2. Ordering and interpreting diagnostic procedures
   3. Establishing primary and differential diagnoses
   4. Prescribing, ordering, administering, dispensing and furnishing therapeutic measures as set forth in Section 5 of this Article.
   5. Delegating and assigning therapeutic measures to assistive personnel

## 11.1 Standards

a. The APRN shall comply with the standards for RNs as specified in Chapter 3 and to the standards of the national professional nursing associations recognized by the BON. Standards for a specific role and population focus of APRN supersede standards for RNs where conflict between the standards, if any, exists.

b. APRNs shall practice within standards established by the BON in rule and assure patient care is provided according to relevant patient care standards recognized by the BON, including standards of national professional nursing associations.
### 2012 Model Act

#### Article XI. APRN Title and Scope of Practice

6. Consulting with other disciplines and providing referrals to health care agencies, health care providers and community resources  
7. Wearing identification which clearly identifies the nurse as an APRN when providing direct patient care, unless wearing identification creates a safety or health risk for either the nurse or the patient and  
8. Other acts that require education and training consistent with professional standards and commensurate with the APRN’s education, certification, demonstrated competencies and experience  

### 2012 Model Rules

#### Chapter 11 – APRN – Scope of Practice

d. APRNs are licensed independent practitioners within standards established or recognized by the BON. Each APRN is accountable to patients, the nursing profession and the BON for:  
1. Complying with the requirements of this Act and the quality of advanced nursing care rendered  
2. Recognizing limits of knowledge and experience  
3. Planning for the management of situations beyond the APRN’s expertise and  
4. Consulting with or referring patients to other health care providers as appropriate  

### Section 2. Licensure

a. An applicant for initial licensure to practice as an APRN shall:  
1. Submit a completed written application and appropriate fees as established by the BON  
2. Hold a current RN license or privilege to practice and shall not hold an encumbered license or privilege to practice as an RN in any state or territory  
3. Have completed an accredited graduate or post-graduate level APRN program in one of the four roles and at least

### 11.2 Licensure

#### 11.2.1 Application for Initial Licensure

a. An applicant for licensure as an APRN in this state shall submit to the BON the required fee as specified in Chapter 4, verification of licensure or eligibility for licensure as an RN in this jurisdiction and a completed application that provides the following information:  
1. Graduation from an APRN graduate or post-graduate program as evidenced by official documentation received
### 2012 Model Act

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<td>4.</td>
<td>Be currently certified by a national certifying body recognized by the BON in the APRN role and population foci appropriate to educational preparation</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Report any criminal conviction, nolo contendere plea, Alford plea or other plea arrangement in lieu of conviction</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Have committed no acts or omissions that are grounds for disciplinary action as set forth in Article VII of this Act, and</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Provide other evidence as required by rule</td>
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#### b. The BON may issue a license by endorsement to an APRN licensed under the laws of another state if, in the opinion of the BON, the applicant meets the qualifications for licensure in this jurisdiction. An applicant for APRN licensure by endorsement shall:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Submit a completed written application and appropriate fees as established by the BON</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Hold a current license or privilege to practice as an RN and APRN in a state or territory</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Not have an encumbered license or privilege to practice in any state or territory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Have completed an accredited graduate or post-graduate level APRN program in one of the four roles and at least one population focus or meets the standards for grandfathering as described in Section 7 of this Article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Be currently certified by a national certifying body recognized by the BON in the APRN role and at least one population focus appropriate to educational preparation</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Meet continued competency requirements as set forth in BON rules</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Report any conviction, nolo contendere plea, Alford plea or other plea arrangement in lieu of conviction</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Have committed no acts or omissions, which are grounds directly from an APRN program accredited by a nursing accrediting body that is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or its successor organization, as acceptable by the BON and</td>
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### 2012 Model Rules

**Chapter 11 – APRN – Scope of Practice**

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<td>2.</td>
<td>This documentation shall verify the date of graduation; credential conferred; number of clinical hours completed; completion of three separate graduate level courses in advanced physiology and pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, advanced pharmacology, which includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents; role and population focus of the education program; and evidence of meeting the standards of nursing education in this state.</td>
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</table>

#### b. In order to be licensed in this state, all APRN applicants must be currently licensed as an RN or hold a privilege to practice as an RN in this state. |

#### c. In order to be licensed in this state, all APRN applicants must take and pass the appropriate APRN national certification examination in the APRN role and population focus congruent with educational preparation. |

#### d. The BON shall determine whether a certification program can be used as a requirement for licensure of APRNs based upon the following standards:

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The program is national in the scope of its credentialing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Conditions for taking the certification examination are consistent with acceptable standards of the testing community and are intended to ensure minimal competence to practice at an advanced level of nursing.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Educational requirements are consistent with the requirements of the advanced practice role and population focus.</td>
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### 2012 Model Act

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<td>4.</td>
<td>The standard methodologies used are acceptable to the testing community such as incumbent job analysis studies and logical job analysis studies.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Certification programs are accredited by a national accreditation body as acceptable by the BON.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>The examination represents entry-level practice, with minimal, though critical competencies, in the advanced nursing practice role and population.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>The examination represents the knowledge, skills and abilities essential for the delivery of safe and effective advanced nursing care to patients.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Examination items are reviewed for content validity, cultural bias and correct scoring using an established mechanism, both before use and periodically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Examinations are evaluated for psychometric performance.</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>The passing standard is established using acceptable psychometric methods and is reevaluated periodically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Examination security is maintained through established procedures.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Certification is issued based upon passing the examination and meeting all other certification requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>A retake policy is in place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>A certification maintenance program, which includes review of qualifications and continued competence, is in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Mechanisms are in place for communication to BONs for timely verification of an individual's certification status, changes in certification status, and changes in the certification program, including qualifications, test plan and scope of practice.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Provide other evidence as required by the BON in its rules</td>
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<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>APRN licenses issued under this Act shall be renewed at least every &lt; &gt; years according to a schedule established by the BON. An applicant for APRN license renewal shall:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Submit a renewal application as directed by the BON and remit the required fee as set forth in rule</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Maintain national certification in the appropriate APRN role and at least one population focus, authorized by licensure, through an ongoing certification maintenance program of a nationally recognized certifying body recognized by the BON and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Meet other requirements set forth in rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>The BON may reactivate or reinstate an APRN license as set forth in BON rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>The duties of licensees are the same as previously stated in Article V Section 8 for RNs and LPN/VNs.</td>
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<td>2012 Model Act</td>
<td>2012 Model Rules</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article XI. APRN Title and Scope of Practice</td>
<td>Chapter 11 – APRN – Scope of Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. An evaluation process is in place to provide quality assurance in its certification program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Requirements of 5.3.d.-i. shall apply to APRNs.</td>
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**11.2.2 Application of an Internationally Educated APRN**

An internationally educated applicant for licensure as an APRN in this state shall:

a. Graduate from a graduate or post-graduate level APRN program equivalent to an APRN educational program in the U.S. accepted by the BON

b. Submit documentation through an official transcript directly from the international nursing education program and verified through a BON approved qualified credentials evaluation process for the license being sought and

c. Meet all other licensure criteria required of applicants educated in the U.S.

**11.2.3 Application for Licensure by Endorsement**

a. An applicant for licensure by endorsement as an APRN in this state shall submit to the BON the required fee as specified in Chapter 4, verification of eligibility for an license or privilege to practice as an RN in this jurisdiction and a completed APRN application that provides the following information:

1. Graduation from a graduate or post-graduate level APRN program, as evidenced by an official transcript or other official documentation received directly from a graduate program accredited by a nursing accrediting body that is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and/or CHEA, or its successor organization, as acceptable by the BON

2. This documentation shall verify the date of graduation;
credential conferred; number of clinical hours completed; completion of three separate graduate level courses in advanced physiology and pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, advanced pharmacology, which includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents; role and population focus of the education program; and evidence of meeting the standards of nursing education in this state.

3. Current certification by a national certifying body in the APRN role and population focus appropriate to educational preparation.
   a) Primary source of verification of certification is required.
   b) If the applicant has not been in clinical practice for more than the past two years, the applicant shall provide evidence of satisfactory completion of 24 contact hours, 12 in pharmacotherapeutics and 12 in the clinical management of patients, within the two years prior to applying for approval to practice.
   c) If the applicant has not been in clinical practice for more than the past five years, the applicant shall provide evidence of satisfactory completion of 45 contact hours of pharmacotherapeutics within the two years prior to application. The applicant must also successfully complete a refresher course approved by the BON or an extensive orientation in the appropriate advanced practice role and population focus, which includes a supervised clinical component by a qualified preceptor.
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<th>2012 Model Rules</th>
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<td>Article XI. APRN Title and Scope of Practice</td>
<td>Chapter 11 – APRN – Scope of Practice</td>
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<td>d) Preceptor must meet the following requirements:</td>
<td>d) Preceptor must meet the following requirements:</td>
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<tr>
<td>i. Holds an active license or privilege to practice as an APRN or physician that is not encumbered and practices in a comparable practice focus and</td>
<td>i. Holds an active license or privilege to practice as an APRN or physician that is not encumbered and practices in a comparable practice focus and</td>
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<tr>
<td>ii. Functions as a supervisor and teacher and evaluates the individual’s performance in the clinical setting</td>
<td>ii. Functions as a supervisor and teacher and evaluates the individual’s performance in the clinical setting</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Requirements of 5.3.d.-i. shall apply to APRNs.</td>
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### 11.2.4 Application for License Renewal

An applicant for license renewal as an APRN shall submit to the BON the required fee for license renewal, as specified in Chapter 4, and a completed license renewal application including:

a. Detailed explanation and supporting documentation for each affirmative answer to questions regarding the applicant’s background and

b. Evidence of current certification(s), or recertification as applicable, by a national professional certification organization that meets the requirements of 11.2.1

### 11.2.5 Quality Assurance/Documentation and Audit

The BON may conduct a random audit of nurses to verify current APRN certification and/or continuing education. Upon request of the BON, licensees shall submit documentation of compliance.

### 11.2.6 Reinstatement of License

The reinstatement of APRN licensure is the same as previously stated for RNs and LPN/VNs in Chapter 5 plus the following:

a. An individual who applies for licensure reinstatement and who has been out of practice for more than five years shall provide evidence of successfully completing < > hours of a reorientation in the appropriate advanced practice role and
population focus, which includes a supervised clinical component by a qualified preceptor.

b. Preceptor must the following requirements:
   1. Holds an active license or privilege to practice as an APRN or physician that is not encumbered and practices in a comparable practice focus and
   2. Functions as a supervisor and teacher and evaluates the individual’s performance in the clinical setting

c. For those licensees applying for licensure reinstatement following disciplinary action, compliance with all BON licensure requirements, as well as any specified requirements set forth in the BON’s discipline order, is required.
Section 3: Titles and Abbreviations
a. Only those persons who hold a license or privilege to practice advanced practice registered nursing in this state shall have the right to use the title “advanced practice registered nurse” and the roles of “certified registered nurse anesthetist,” “certified nurse-midwife,” “clinical nurse specialist” and “certified nurse practitioner;” and the abbreviations “APRN,” “CRNA,” “CNM,” “CNS” and “CNP,” respectively.
b. The abbreviation for the APRN designation of a certified registered nurse anesthetist, a certified nurse-midwife, a clinical nurse specialist and for a certified nurse practitioner will be APRN, plus the role title, i.e., CRNA, CNM, CNS and CNP.
c. It shall be unlawful for any person to use the title “APRN” or “APRN” plus their respective role titles, the role title alone, authorized abbreviations or any other title that would lead a person to believe the individual is an APRN, unless permitted by this Act.

Section 4: Education Programs
a. The BON shall, by administrative rules, set standards for the establishment and outcomes of APRN education programs, including clinical learning experiences, and approve such programs that meet the requirements of the Act and BON rules.
b. The BON shall, by administrative rules, identify the process for determining APRN education program compliance with standards.
c. The BON shall set requirements for the establishment of a new APRN education program. New programs will be preapproved by an APRN accrediting body.

11.3. Titles and Abbreviations
a. Individuals are licensed or granted privilege to practice as APRNs in the roles of certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), certified nurse-midwife (CNM), clinical nurse specialist (CNS) and certified nurse practitioner (CNP) and in the population focus of family/individual across the lifespan, adult-gerontology, neonatal, pediatrics, women’s health/gender-related or psychiatric/mental health.
b. Each APRN shall use the designation “APRN” plus role title as a minimum for purposes of identification and documentation. The APRN with an earned doctorate may use the term doctor or abbreviation “Dr.”
c. When providing nursing care, the APRN shall provide clear identification that indicates his or her APRN designation.

11.4 APRN Education
11.4.1. Required Criteria for APRN Education Programs
The BON shall determine whether an APRN education program meets the qualifications for the establishment of a program based upon the following standards:
a. An APRN program shall appoint the following personnel:
   1. An APRN program administrator whose qualifications shall include:
      a) A current, active APRN license or privilege to practice that is not encumbered in the state where the program is approved and/or accredited
      b) A doctoral degree in a health-related field
      c) At least two years of clinical experience as an APRN and
      d) Current national APRN certification
   2. A lead faculty member who is educated and nationally certified in the same role and population foci and licensed as an APRN shall coordinate the educational component,
including curriculum development, for the role and population foci in the APRN program.

3. Nursing faculty to teach any APRN nursing course that includes a clinical learning experience shall meet the following qualifications:
   a) A current, active APRN license or privilege to practice that is not encumbered in the state where the program is approved and/or accredited
   b) A minimum of a master’s degree in nursing or health related field in the clinical specialty
   c) Two years of APRN clinical experience and
d) Current knowledge, competence and certification as an APRN in the role and population foci consistent with teaching responsibilities

4. Adjunct clinical faculty employed solely to supervise clinical nursing experiences of students shall meet all the faculty qualifications for the program level they are teaching.

5. Interdisciplinary faculty who teach non-clinical nursing courses shall have advanced preparation appropriate to these areas of content.

6. Clinical preceptors shall have demonstrated competencies related to the area of assigned clinical teaching responsibilities and will serve as a role model and educator to the student. Clinical preceptors may be used to enhance faculty-directed clinical learning experiences, but not to replace them.

7. Clinical preceptors will be approved by faculty and meet the following requirements:
   a) Hold an active license or privilege to practice that is not encumbered as an APRN or physician and practices in a comparable practice focus and
   b) Function as a supervisor and teacher and evaluate the individual’s performance in the clinical setting

b. The curriculum of the APRN nursing education program must prepare the graduate to practice in one of the four identified
APRN roles, i.e., CRNA, CNM, CNS and CNP, and at least one of the six population foci, i.e., family/individual across the lifespan, adult-gerontology, neonatal, pediatrics, women’s health/gender-related or psychiatric /mental health. The curriculum shall include:

1. Three separate graduate level courses (the APRN core) in:
   a) Advanced physiology and pathophysiology, including general principles that apply across the lifespan
   b) Advanced health assessment, which includes assessment of all human systems, advanced assessment techniques, concepts and approaches and
   c) Advanced pharmacology, which includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents

2. Diagnosis and management of diseases across practice settings including diseases representative of all systems

3. Preparation that provides a basic understanding of the principles for decision making in the identified role

4. Preparation in the core competencies for the identified APRN role and

5. Role preparation in one of the six population foci of practice

c. Additional required components of graduate or post-graduate education programs preparing APRNs shall include the following:

1. Each student enrolled in an APRN program shall have an RN license or privilege to practice that is not encumbered in the state of clinical practice, unless exempted from this licensure requirement under Article 5 section 10.

2. Education programs offered by an accredited college or university that offers a graduate degree with a concentration in the advanced nursing practice role and at least one population focus or post-masters certificate
programs offered by an accredited college or university shall include the following components:
   a) Clinical supervision congruent with current national professional organizations and nursing accrediting body standards applicable to the APRN role and population focus and
   b) Curriculum that is congruent with national standards for graduate level and advanced practice nursing education, is consistent with nationally recognized APRN roles and population foci, and includes, but is not limited to:
      i. Graduate APRN program core courses and
      ii. An advanced practice nursing core, including legal, ethical and professional responsibilities of the APRN

  3. The curriculum shall be consistent with competencies of the specific areas of practice

  4. APRN programs preparing for two population foci or combined nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist shall include content and clinical experience in both functional roles and population foci

  5. Each instructional track/major shall have a minimum of 500 supervised clinical hours as defined by the BON. The supervised experience is directly related to the role and population foci, including pharmacotherapeutic management of patients and

There shall be provisions for the recognition of prior learning and advanced placements in the curriculum for individuals who hold a master’s in nursing and are seeking preparation in a different role and population focus. Post-masters nursing students shall complete the requirements of the master’s APRN program through a formal graduate level certificate in the desired role and population focus. Post-master students must meet the same APRN outcome competencies as the master level students.
11.4.2 Models for Determining Compliance with Standards
The models for determining compliance with APRN education standards are the same as previously stated for RN and LPN/VN programs in Chapter 6.

11.4.3 Establishment of a New APRN Education Program
Before establishing a new nursing education program, the APRN program shall complete the process outlined below:
a. Application to the professional accrediting body and
b. The proposed program shall provide the following information to the BON:
1. Results of a needs assessment, including identification of potential students and employment opportunities for program graduates
2. Identification of sufficient financial and other resources
3. Governing institution approval and support
4. Community support
5. Type of educational program proposed
6. Clinical opportunities and availability of resources
7. Availability of qualified faculty
8. A pool of available students and
9. A proposed time line for initiating and expanding the program

Section 5. Prescribing, Ordering, Dispensing and Furnishing Authority
a. The BON shall grant prescribing, ordering, dispensing and furnishing authority through the APRN license.
b. Prescribing, ordering, dispensing and furnishing shall include the authority to:
   1. Diagnose, prescribe and institute therapy or referrals of patients to health care agencies, health care providers and community resources
   2. Prescribe, procure, administer, dispense and furnish pharmacological agents, including over the counter,

11.5 Prescriptive Authority
11.5.1 Requirements for Prescribing, Ordering, Dispensing and Furnishing Authority
a. An APRN licensed by the BON may prescribe, order, procure, administer, dispense and furnish over the counter, legend and controlled substances pursuant to applicable state and federal laws and within the APRN’s role and population focus.
b. Written, verbal or electronic prescriptions and orders shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws.
legend and controlled substances and

3. Plan and initiate a therapeutic regimen that includes ordering and prescribing non-pharmacological interventions, including, but not limited to, durable medical equipment, medical devices, nutrition, blood and blood products, and diagnostic and supportive services including, but not limited to, home health care, hospice, and physical and occupational therapy

c. All prescriptions shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:
   1. Name, title, address and phone number of the APRN who is prescribing
   2. Name of patient
   3. Date of prescription
   4. Full name of the drug, dosage, route, amount to be dispensed and directions for its use
   5. Number of refills
   6. Signature of prescriber on written prescription and
   7. DEA number of the prescriber on all scheduled drugs
      a) The APRN shall comply with Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) requirements related to controlled substances.
      b) The APRN shall immediately file any and all of the nurse’s DEA registrations and numbers with the BON.

d. The BON shall maintain current records of all APRNs with DEA registration and numbers.

11.5.2 Distribution of Samples
b. APRNs may receive, sign for, record and distribute samples to patients.
Distribution of drug samples shall be in accordance with state law and DEA laws, regulations and guidelines.

Section 6. Discipline
APRN discipline and proceedings shall be the same as stated in Article VII for RNs and LPN/VNs.

11.6 Discipline
a. APRN discipline and proceedings is the same as previously stated for RN and LPN/VN in Chapter 7.
b. The BON may limit, restrict, deny, suspend or revoke APRN licensure, or prescriptive or dispensing authority.
c. Additional grounds for discipline related to prescriptive or dispensing authority include, but are not limited to:
   1. Prescribing, dispensing, administering, or distributing drugs in an unsafe manner or without adequate instructions to patients according to acceptable and prevailing standards.
   2. Selling, purchasing, trading, or offering to sell, purchase or trade drug samples.
3. Prescribing, dispensing, administering or distributing drugs for other than therapeutic or prophylactic purposes or
4. Prescribing or distributing drugs to individuals who are not patients of the APRN or who are not within that nurse’s role and population focus.

**Section 7. Implementation**
Any person holding a license to practice nursing as an APRN in this state that is valid on Dec. 30, 2015, shall be deemed to be licensed as an APRN under the provisions of this Act with their current privileges and shall be eligible for renewal of such license under the conditions and standards prescribed in this Act.

**11.7 Implementation**
a. After <date>, all new graduates applying for APRN licensure must meet the stipulated licensure requirements.
b. An APRN applying for licensure by endorsement in another state may be eligible for licensure if the applicant demonstrates that the following criteria have been met:
   1. Current, active practice in the advanced role and population focus area.
   2. Current active national certification or recertification, as applicable, in the advanced role and population focus area.
   3. Compliance with the APRN educational requirements of the state in which the APRN is applying for licensure that were in effect at the time the APRN completed his or her APRN education program and
   4. Compliance with all other criteria set forth by the state in which the APRN is applying for licensure, e.g. continuing education.