



Please Vote Yes on Senate Bill 8

The Oregon Nurses Association and Nurse Practitioners of Oregon urge you to Support Senate Bill 8.

Senate Bill 8 removes restrictions on Nurse Practitioner dispensing that function as barriers to patients and to providers.

Oregon Nurse Practitioners have earned the ability to practice independently without supervision of a physician, and have had full prescriptive authority since the mid 1970s. They have had limited dispensing privileges since the mid 1990s.

While NPs are allowed to distribute pre-packaged sample medications without restriction, current statute requires NPs who apply to the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) to dispense to "*demonstrate a lack of readily available access to pharmacy services*" and show that the "*grant of dispensing authority would correct this access*".

Senate Bill 8 removes this language and would ensure that NPs throughout the state have the ability to dispense the medications their patients need.

Many practice sites where NPs provide care to patients would benefit from removing the current restrictions. For example, patients cared for in immediate care settings are often seen during extended clinic hours, at times which do not allow easy access to pharmacies. Patients may not have transportation that allows them to access a pharmacy even when they are in an urban area. Pharmacies may not be open at the time the patient needs medication.

Senate Bill 8 does not change Board of Pharmacy involvement in NP dispensing. The OSBN is required to notify the Board of Pharmacy when an NP applies for dispensing privileges, and issues a second notification if and when the application is approved. If there is a complaint related to a Nurse Practitioner dispensing, the Board of Pharmacy has the ability to conduct an inspection. In the past three years there have been zero complaints related to Nurse Practitioner dispensing.

Please Vote 'Yes' on Senate Bill 8.

From the desk of
Senator Monnes Anderson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie M. Anderson".