



Oregon

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Board of Nursing

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Before the
House Committee on Health Care

HB 2678

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit testimony regarding House Bill 2678. The purpose of the bill is to allow nurse practitioners to perform sterilization procedures on male patients.

Currently, statute allows nurse practitioners to perform procedures such as bone marrow aspirations, chest tube placement, and lumbar punctures, assuming they have obtained the proper training and education. Vasectomies would be in line with this, as long as it is allowed in statute.

When considering if a skill is within a nurse's scope of practice, it is important to consider these questions:

- Is the activity/task precluded by any law, rule, or policy, including the Oregon Nurse Practice Act?
- Is the activity consistent with: Nursing Educational Standards, National Professional Nursing Standards, Nursing Literature/Research, OSBN Policies, Institutional Policies, and Applicable Accreditation Standards & Community Standards?
- Has the nurse completed the necessary education?
- Does the nurse possess the appropriate knowledge?
- Is there documented evidence of current competency & skill?
- Would a reasonable & prudent nurse perform the activity?
- Is the nurse prepared to accept & manage the consequences of his/her action?

It is important to point out that if nurse practitioners were to perform vasectomies, they must maintain current documentation to support their competency and obtain the necessary professional credentialing to perform this skill within their health system level.

For those practitioners who are not currently credentialed to perform a skill, health systems may provide didactic training and education for these specific procedures. The trainee is proctored by another provider for a specific number of procedures (six-to-ten). Once they complete these procedures and submit this education and training to their credentialing body, which is health-system dependent, they are approved to perform the procedure and bill independently for these services. This competency is typically re-evaluated annually.

This rigor protects the public and holds the individual licensee accountable.

The Board would be glad to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding House Bill 2678.