



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Board of Nursing

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Before the  
**Senate Committee on Health Care**

### **House Bill 2103**

Although the Oregon State Board of Nursing has no position on House Bill 2103, the Board wishes to submit informational testimony. The purpose of the bill is to allow nurse practitioners to perform vasectomies.

Numerous studies have demonstrated that nurse practitioners increase the public's access to services, provide high quality client interaction, and focus on health education and prevention. Currently, statute allows nurse practitioners to perform procedures such as bone marrow aspiration, chest tube placement, and lumbar puncture with the appropriate education, training, competency, credentialing, and privileging.

There is an increased demand for vasectomy as it is a low risk procedure, performed on an outpatient basis under local anesthesia, and often as a low cost or free service in Oregon. When the Board considers if a skill or procedure such as "vasectomy" is within any nurse's scope of practice, it utilizes the Scope-of-Practice Decision Making Guidelines for All Licensed Nurses, a decision-making tool that asks the following questions:

- *Is the role prohibited by the Nurse Practice Act or any other applicable laws, rules/regulations or accreditation standards? (Answer must be "no" to continue.)*
- *Is performing the role consistent with professional nursing standards, evidenced-based nursing, and health care literature? (Answer must be "yes" to continue.)*
- *Are there practice setting policies and procedures in place to support performing the role, intervention, or activity? (Answer must be "yes" to continue.)*
- *Has the nurse completed the necessary education to safely perform the role? (Answer must be "yes" to continue.)*
- *Is there documented evidence of the nurse's current competence (knowledge, skills, abilities, and judgements) to safely perform the role? (Answer must be "yes" to continue.)*
- *Would a reasonable and prudent nurse perform the role? (Answer must be "yes" to continue.)*
- *Is the nurse prepared to accept accountability for the role? (If answer is "yes," the nurse may perform the role according to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care.)*

Should this bill go forward, it would be the expectation of the OSBN that any nurse practitioner who would seek to perform this skill would first become educated, undergo training and show competency in the procedure, become credentialed and privileged by the appropriate agency, and bill independently for these services. This rigor protects the public and holds the individual licensee accountable.

The Board would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit information regarding HB 2103.