



Oregon

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Before the
House 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 (NP) to perform vasectomies.

Numerous studies have demonstrated NPs increase access to services, provide high quality provider client interaction and focus on health education and prevention. Currently, statute allows NPs 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 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. It is 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?*
- *Is performing the role consistent with professional nursing standards, evidenced based nursing and health care literature?*
- *Are there practice setting policies and procedures in place to support performing the role, intervention or activity?*
- *Has the nurse completed the necessary education to safely perform the role?*
- *Is there documented evidence of the nurse's current competence (knowledge, skills, abilities, and judgements) to safely perform the role?*
- *Would a reasonable and prudent nurse perform the role?*
- *Is the nurse prepared to accept accountability for the role?*

If all answers to the above questions are "yes" then the nurse may perform the role to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care.

Should this bill go forward, it would be the expectation of the OSBN that any NP who would seek to perform this skill would first become educated and trained 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.