Oregon State Board of Nursing Terminology

Statement of Purpose
These resources are available to the public in order to clarify the intent of the Oregon Nurse Practice Act. This document defines each of the resource documents located on the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) website.

Background/Significance
The Nurse Practice Act (NPA) for the state of Oregon consists of Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 678.010 to 678.445. The statute further allows the Board to promulgate rules to further define and clarify the intent of the ORS. These rules are found in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 851, which is further delineated into specific divisions. Together ORS 678 and Chapter 851 of the OARs constitute the NPA. The state of Oregon may have other rules and statutes that direct specific areas of nursing practice (such as school nurses) or address specific issues related to nurses (such as nurse staffing laws). These laws are separate from the NPA and not under the jurisdiction of the OSBN.

The documents found on the OSBN website are intended to clarify and address questions frequently asked about NPA. These documents may not extend the NPA beyond what is written in the cited ORS and OARs; they can only be used to clarify.

Board Statement
The OSBN provides information to the public and licensees/certificate holders in the form of the following:

- **Interpretive Statements:** Utilizing a variety of sources, the Board staff develops these statements to clarify the NPA. These statements will have been reviewed by the Board to assure that the content is consistent with Board intent. These statements are not considered an extension of the NPA and will not be used as a basis to determine if the NPA has been violated.

- **Frequently Asked Questions:** These questions are collected from the ask-a-practice question section of our website as well as a compilation of the most frequent questions to our call center. These questions will be updated on a regular basis as new questions become frequently asked.

- **Scope of Practice Decision Making Guideline:** Utilizing the Scope of Practice Decision Making Guideline, specific tasks, interventions, and roles will be clarified. The determination if a basic Interpretive Statement will be used or if the format will require use of the Decision Making Guideline will be made by Board staff. In general, “Is this in my scope of practice” type questions will be addressed utilizing the Decision Making Guideline to allow the reader the ability to understand how each section of the guideline is addressed.

- **General Policies:** These are administrative policies directing Board staff procedures. They are included on the website as a reference for the licensees/certificate holders. These policies are not considered part of the Nurse Practice Act.

History of Document: Adopted 04/14/2005
Revised: 06/17/2010, 12/15/2015

The Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) is authorized by Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 678 to exercise general supervision over the practice of nursing in Oregon to include regulation of nursing licensure, education, and practice in order to assure that the citizens of Oregon receive safe and effective care. The OSBN further interprets statute and rule and issues opinions in the form of policies and interpretive statements, which are advisory in nature and issued as guidelines for safe nursing practice.