

APRN – SAFETY

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) include Nurse Practitioners (“Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner” in Florida), Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).

- **More than 50 years of research supports the safety, effectiveness and high quality of care that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses provide to their patients.** Healthcare outcomes have been found to be comparable between Advanced Practice Nurses and Physicians nationwide. Notably, patient satisfaction rates are typically higher with healthcare provided by an Advanced Practice Nurse.
- The Institute of Medicine (IOM) report entitled *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* states, “...what nurse practitioners are able to do once they graduate varies widely for reasons that are not related to their ability, education or training, or safety concerns, but to the political decisions of the state in which they work” (2010, page S-4).
- **There is no evidence that suggests healthcare is better in states that have more restrictive scope-of-practice regulations for APRNs than in those that do not.** Yet most states continue to restrict the practice of APRNs beyond what is warranted by either their education or their training. (Institute of Medicine, 2010)
- “Full Practice Authority” laws have passed in **19 states** and the District of Columbia allowing Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to evaluate, diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, initiate and manage treatments (including the ability to prescribe medication) under the exclusive licensure authority of the state Board of Nursing. No state has ever rescinded Full Practice Authority laws once passed.
- The American Association of Nurse Practitioners defines “Full Practice Authority” as the collection of state practice and licensure laws that allow for nurse practitioners to evaluate patients, diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests, initiate and manage treatments—including prescribe medications—under exclusive licensure authority of the state board of nursing.

There are over 14,000 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses that are licensed in the state of Florida. If they were able to provide care to their full potential, more Floridians would have access to safe, highly quality, patient-centered health care.

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“It always seems impossible until it's done.”

Nelson Mandela

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