

BACKGROUND

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**FULL**  
PRACTICE  
**AUTHORITY**

**CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT**

# WHAT IS FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY?

## WHAT IS IT?

Full Practice Authority is the authorization of nurse practitioners (NPs) to evaluate patients; diagnose, order and interpret diagnostic tests; and initiate and manage treatments — including prescribe medications — under the exclusive licensure authority of the state board of nursing.

Across the nation, the requirements for NP education, program accreditation and board certification are consistent with national standards. To become an NP, one must hold a bachelor's degree in nursing, be licensed as a registered nurse (RN), graduate from a nationally accredited graduate NP program that meets national standards for advanced didactic and clinical education and pass a national NP board certification exam. Despite these national standards within nursing, there is inconsistency in how state laws and legislative bodies authorize (license) NP practice in states.

This variability originated during the 1970s when states began to regulate NPs beyond their registered nursing license. While initial recognition of the NP was critical, over the past decades, this patchwork of practice authorization has led to significant challenges for NPs, their patients and health care delivery.

In Full Practice Authority (FPA) states, NP licensure is not contingent on unnecessary contracts or relationships with a physician or oversight by the state medical board. As a result, studies show that in FPA states, NPs are more likely to practice in rural and underserved areas and have improved NP workforce recruitment while meeting the highest care quality and safety standards. States that restrict or reduce NPs' ability to practice according to their abilities through limiting licensure authority are more closely associated with geographic health care disparities, higher chronic disease burden, primary care shortages, higher costs of care and lower standing on national health rankings.



# WHAT IS FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY?

## WHERE IS IT?

To date, nearly half of states and U.S. territories have adopted FPA licensure laws for NPs. These include: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.

## HOW WILL IT IMPACT PATIENTS?

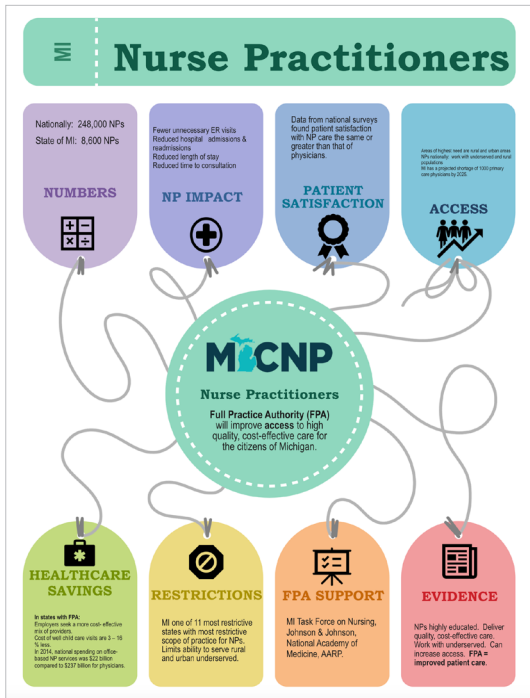
Adopting FPA for NPs provides patients with full and direct access to all the services that NPs are equipped to provide. FPA:

- **Improves Access** — FPA creates greater access to care, especially in underserved urban and rural areas. States with FPA are more likely to have NPs working in rural and underserved areas and NP practices than states with more restrictive licensure models.
- **Streamlines Care and Makes Care Delivery More Efficient** — FPA provides patients with full and direct access to the NP services at the point of care. FPA removes delays in care that are created when dated regulations require an NP be part of an unnecessary regulatory-mandated contract with a physician as a condition of practicing their profession.
- **Decreases Costs** — FPA avoids duplication of services and billing costs associated with outdated physician oversight of NP practice. FPA reduces unnecessary repetition of orders, office visits and care services.
- **Protects Patient Choice** — FPA allows patients to see the health care provider of their choice. FPA removes anticompétitive licensing restrictions that interfere with patient-centered health care.



# GET THE FACTS!

## DOWNLOAD AND SHARE THESE INFOGRAPHICS & FACT SHEETS



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**FACT:** Nurse Practitioners will help fill the gap.

- Nurse practitioners are highly educated clinicians who traditionally practice in underserved rural and urban areas delivering high quality, cost-effective care equal to or better than physician-delivered care<sup>1</sup>.
- Research shows that in states with full scope of practice, more nurse practitioners practice in health professional shortage areas<sup>2</sup>.
- Full scope of practice for nurse practitioners in Michigan would ensure the most vulnerable Michiganders (older adults and children living in poverty) have greater access to healthcare<sup>3,4</sup>.
- Mortality rates for cancer, heart disease and stroke patients have been found to be lower in those parts of the U.S. that have increased access to primary to care.
- In critical care settings, research has shown that NPs reduce length of stay, time to consultation and treatment, mortality, improved patient satisfaction and cost savings.<sup>5,6</sup>

**FACT:** Significant support exists for full practice authority.

- The Michigan Task Force on Nursing<sup>7</sup> recommended that the State remove barriers to nurse practitioner practice that put Michigan at a disadvantage in cultivating an adequate nurse practitioner workforce.
- The Institute of Medicine<sup>8</sup> recommended that nurse practitioners be utilized to their full potential based on their education and experience.
- Johnson & Johnson advocates for the use of nurse practitioners to fill the need for specialized, knowledgeable clinicians<sup>9</sup>.
- Several other national leaders and national organizations such as the National Academy of Medicine and AARP support full practice authority for nurse practitioners.

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**FULL PRACTICE AUTHORITY**

### NURSE PRACTITIONERS LEGISLATION: MYTHS AND FACTS

Various organizations and/or individuals may have expressed concern regarding the pending legislation to define Nurse Practitioners (NPs). The following are the most common myths, along with a response to each:

**Myth:** The bill(s) would increase the Scope of Practice (SOP) for NPs beyond their current level of education and abilities.

**Fact:** National professional nursing organizations define scope of practice for NPs based on education, certification, and role. NPs currently practice within these established national standards; this bill will define, not change NP practice or allow them to provide care beyond their education.

**Myth:** The bill(s) would remove the 'oversight' by physicians, thereby increasing the risk of bad outcomes for patients.

**Fact:** The bill(s) would define what activities are within NPs scope of practice only and will not impact quality assurance program requirements by health care and/or insurance organizations to monitor outcomes and ensure safe patient care. In study after study, NPs are found to provide the same safe, high quality care with similar outcomes as their physician colleagues.

**Myth:** This bill would destroy the collaborative relationship between NPs and physicians.

**Fact:** NPs, like all health care professionals, have a legal and ethical obligation to consult, refer or transfer patients when health care needs are beyond the expertise and comfortable level of the provider. NPs will continue to collaborate with physicians and all members of the interdisciplinary team to provide the best care for patients.

**Myth:** Health care costs will increase because no one will be monitoring NPs utilization of services.

**Fact:** Study after study has found that NPs provide similar high quality health care at costs dramatically less than traditional providers. Patients under the care of NPs tend to have reduced emergency room visits, decreased hospital length of stay, less costly diagnostic tests and prescription drug costs.

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# GET ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Almost everyone we know has a social media account, whether it be for social or business use. There is no denying that social media plays a prominent role in our lives today, providing us with updates, keeping us connected with others, and promoting of events, products and services.

The Full Practice Authority Campaign will be an ideal place for us to highlight our goal. Following some of the suggestions below will help us amplify the message of FPA, improve health care, and encourage others to support the bill.

## SHOW YOUR FPA SUPPORT

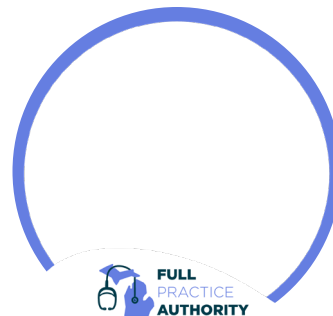
Show your pride as an FPA supporter by using a Facebook Frame. We've created three unique frames to highlight our supporters. Click on the links below to add the frame to your profile, or search in frame studio by typing in "Full Practice Authority."



Use as Profile Frame



Use as Profile Frame



Use as Profile Frame

## LIKE, RETWEET, AND SHARE

Educate and engage your own follower base by sharing what makes Full Practice Authority such an important issue. Like, retweet and share MICNP social media posts where we're highlighting specific topics or information regarding FPA. Add to the post by sharing your own experiences, what you believe Full Practice Authority will achieve or if you've participated in the program or event we're talking about.

## USE THE HASHTAGS!

**#FullPracticeAuthority, #FPA, #SupportNPs, #FPAinMI**

## FOLLOW MICNP ON EVERY SOCIAL CHANNEL!



# SOCIAL MEDIA GRAPHICS

Download and share these graphics on your social media.

## LOGOS



Color Logo



White Logo



Black Logo

## FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM

By 2025, it is projected that Michigan will have a shortage of approximately **1,000** primary care physicians.

Support full scope of practice for nurse practitioners to ensure access to high quality, cost effective care in Michigan.



Social Post A

**FACT:** Michigan is one of the most **restrictive** states for **NP practice.**

Restrictive scope of practice regulations limit nurse practitioner's ability to practice in underserved rural and urban areas due to physician supervision requirements.



Social Post B

supporting nurse practitioners

supports patients

supports a healthy Michigan



Social Post C

## LINKEDIN/TWITTER

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Social Post C

# SHARE A TESTIMONIAL OR STORY

In celebration of the nurse practitioners we are supporting, we want to hear from you! MICNP wants to know what makes nurse practitioners so important to you – and why they deserve Full Practice Authority! Your answers could be featured on our campaign page or even on social media!

You can participate in the quick survey and only share responses to the questions you feel apply.

## EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO SHARE

Tell your favorite memory or experience with a nurse practitioner or share what you believe full practice authority will bring to health care. Your story could offer insight to someone who has been interested in the bill and could help encourage them to support!



[Submit a Story](#)

## TIPS FOR TELLING YOUR STORY

Make it personal or special to you! Show your personality and let your character shine. Talk to the audience as if you're an old friend, colleague, or someone they'd like to get to know.

Focus on your audience. As you begin telling your story, ask yourself, "What is it about my testimonial that will be meaningful and helpful to others?" Your experience with nurse practitioners is unique to you. Your voice matters.

# OFFICIAL RESOURCES

Want to connect with influential people to gain support for the Full Practive Authority bill, but don't know where to start? We've got you covered. Use our letter templates to write to your representatives, senators, colleauges, patients or anyone you believe should support this bill.



[Download a Letter Template](#)

“Michigan is facing a healthcare provider shortage. It is estimated that by 2025 Michigan will need approximately 1000 primary care providers. This is compounded by the fact that many residents of Michigan do not have reasonable geographic access to a regular healthcare provider. Michigan nurse practitioners (NPs) are committed to the health and well-being of the residents of the state of Michigan.”



[Read the Executive Summary](#)