

Pronouncement of Death

It is the Board's position that it is within the scope of practice of the registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, and advanced practice registered nurse to pronounce death.

The licensed nurse is responsible to adhere to relevant state laws which include (but are not limited to) ORS Chapter 146 investigations of Deaths, Injuries and Missing Persons and ORS Chapter 97 Rights and Duties Relating to Cemeteries, Human Bodies and Anatomical Gifts. The licensed nurse is also responsible to adhere to applicable requirements of the practice setting related to pronouncement of death.

References: Oregon Nurse Practice Act

Authority for Approval: ORS 678.010(8), OAR 851-045-0030 through 0060

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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.