

Nurse Practitioners with Prescriptive Authority and Non-Prescriptive Remedies

Nurse Practitioners with prescriptive authority may recommend use of non-prescriptive remedies to their patients within their specialty scope of practice. "Non-prescriptive remedies" include such therapeutics as vitamins, minerals, homeopathic, herbal, and compound medications, as well as over-the-counter drugs. The Nurse Practitioner recommending such a remedy will be held to the standards of his or her prescriptive authority, whether or not the remedy requires an actual written prescription.

These standards protect the patient by requiring that the Nurse Practitioner assess the patient's current use of medications and therapeutics, potential risks and benefits of the proposed remedy, and possible drug interactions. Female patients must be appraised of any known fetal risks inherent in a non-prescription remedy.