

Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists with Prescriptive Authority and Non-Prescriptive Remedies

Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists 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 which do not require a prescription to administer, prescribe, procure, dispense, or distribute. The Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist 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 or Clinical Nurse Specialist 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.

Adopted 4/12/2001
Reaffirmed 11/13/2008

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 Board Policies, Policy Guidelines and Position Statements. Although they do not have the force and effect of law, these opinions are advisory in nature and issued as guidelines for safe nursing practice.