

Oregon State Board of Nursing Policymaking Definitions

Statement of Purpose

The following definitions were adopted by the Board for the purpose of uniformity in the Board's statements which articulate application of the Nurse Practice Act. Such definitions shall be used to promote clear communication regarding the Board's expectations of behavior and practice in documents used for rulemaking and rule interpretation, strategic planning, and policy development; and shall help promote the Board's mission of protection of the public. Board Policies, Position Statements and Issue Briefs will be posted as a resource on the Oregon State Board of Nursing website.

Board Policy

A document developed by staff, expert group/individual or appointed committee, which is approved by the Board. Policy interprets the intent of broad areas of regulation and serves to demonstrate the Board's formal opinion and may include guidelines that delineate role, competencies, requirements and limitations to perform in a specific capacity.

Position Statement

A concise statement approved by the Board which offers a definitive view on a specific aspect of nursing scope and practice as it pertains to nursing regulation.

Issue Brief

An evidence-based paper which addresses an issue that affects the scope and practice of nursing. This paper is global, philosophical, and includes a historical statement which places an issue in context, as well as an explanation of why the issue is pertinent. An Issue Brief may be of particular value to the Board when making policy decisions.

An issue brief includes:

1. A statement of the issue.
2. Background – past practices, current law/rules, etc.
3. A discussion of the issue which includes analysis of the current situation, statistics (fiscal impact), research, best practices and other relevant information pertaining to the issue.
4. Possible action(s)/solution(s).
5. Arguments for and against the various action(s) or solution(s).
6. Recommended action(s)/solution(s).
7. Referenced citations regarding evidence-based practice and/or best practices.

Operational Policy

Internal guide to decision-making or procedures developed and used by staff in their daily work. Operational policies are approved by management.

Operational Procedure

The internal process approved by management and used by staff to implement operational policies.

Adopted: April 14, 2005

Revised: June 17, 2010

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.