

## Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN): Scope of Practice and the Care of the Transgender Patient

For the purposes of this Interpretive Statement, the term APRN refers to practitioners who are licensed by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) as Nurse Practitioners (NP), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

**For NPs:** While the specialty groups for Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 851-050-0005 (9) identifies the type of recognized Nurse Practitioner (NP) specialties, this rule also identifies the population focus of each specialty as determined by their education and national certification. The Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) requires that NPs practice according to the population license type as an NP. Several of the NP specialty types are gender specific and identify the female population specific to that specialty. There are no specific male gender specializations identified in the OAR.

At present there are no national certifications within the NP specialties that specifically addresses the care of the transgender patient. The Board has been asked at what point a transgender patient falls into the scope of practice of an NP whose specialty is based upon specific gender criteria as listed in the OAR. Statute and rule are silent on specific language regarding the care of the transgender patient. NPs should consult the Scope of Practice Decision Making Guideline for All Nurses to determine if caring for the needs of the transgender patient is within their knowledge, skills, and abilities.

**For CNS and CRNA licensees:** No specific patient population focus is identified for these two license types. It is the expectation of the OSBN that CNSs and CRNAs follow the principles below for the provision of care to the transgender patient population.

In addition the Board asserts the following:

1. All patients must be treated with dignity and respect.
2. That gender is based upon the patient's declaration of gender. Gender does not have a finite binary description based upon gender assignment at birth, hormone therapy, legal name change or gender correcting surgery.
3. APRNs must determine if they have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to care for the healthcare issue presented by the patient and not on what phase (if any) of transition the patient is currently undergoing.
4. The APRN's decision to accept the patient into their practice should be based upon the assessment of the health issue.
5. If the healthcare issues are beyond the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the APRN, an appropriate referral must be made.
6. If the APRN determines that the patient is out of scope based on a lack knowledge, skills and abilities to meet the needs of a transgender patient, then a referral to knowledgeable practitioner must be made.

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