



October 4, 2021

To: HB 495 Task Force
From: Missy Poortenga, Executive Officer, Board of Nursing
RE: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) scope of practice

The Montana Board of Nursing (Board) recognizes that scope of practice is individualized more to each nurse based on their role, education, competence, facility, and experience. Because of this, we do not have one single document that can be referenced to determine scope.

For APRN scope of practice and laws, standards of practice are noted in ARM 24.159.1405: <http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/showrulefile.asp?RN=24%2E159%2E1405> and ARM 24.159.1406:

<http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/showrulefile.asp?RN=24%2E159%2E1406>. Prescribing practices are defined in ARM 24.159.1464:

<http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?RN=24%2E159%2E1464>. Scope is left to the certifying bodies:

http://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/Portals/133/Documents/nur/aprn_sop_documents.pdf based on the APRN's population focus and certification.

Once the nurse has reviewed the statute and rules, the Board offers a scope of practice decision making model on its website [here](#) to walk through the various questions that will help the inquiring nurse determine if the task or procedure is within an APRN's scope. The first question needs to be answered "no" to proceed. The subsequent questions must ALL be answered "yes" for the procedure/task/intervention to be within scope. These questions ensure it is best practice, that facility policy/procedure allow for it, that the APRN has appropriate education and competence for it, and that the nurse is willing to accept the task. If the answer is yes to all of those questions, then the consensus would be that the task/intervention/procedure is within scope of practice for that APRN.

Further interpretation of the rules and their impact on an APRN's practice within a specific scenario is encouraged to be accomplished with the nurse's own legal counsel.