



**APRN MODERNIZATION ACT**  
*Education Accreditation  
Certification Licensure*

### **APRN Modernization Act Information for Wisconsin Physicians**

As an interprofessional colleague with Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, we would like to inform you of a legislative proposal that addresses the practice of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in Wisconsin. APRNs are registered nurses who have acquired, through graduate-level education, advanced clinical knowledge and skills to provide direct patient care.

There are four distinct types or roles for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses:

- Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)
- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- Nurse Practitioner (NP)

This proposed legislation will “modernize” the current nurse practice act, §441 by recognizing all APRNs in state statute. The proposed changes will reflect the national model for APRN practice that is being adopted throughout the country. The language will achieve the following:

- Provide licensure for advanced practice registered nurses (APRN),
- The license will indicate the practice role as listed above,
- Describe the criteria for APRN licensure,
- Define Advanced Practice Registered Nursing,
- Provide technical amendments to address state statutes that currently use Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP)

There are approximately 3,000 APRNs that have statutory authority to prescribe. The remaining APRNs (1,360) are omitted in statute. The Department of Workforce Development reported that in 2016 there were 4,360 APRNs in Wisconsin, who are evenly distributed throughout the state.

APRNs are registered nurses who have acquired, through graduate-level education, advanced clinical knowledge and skills to provide direct patient care for specific populations of patients, including adults, families, children and newborns and pregnant women. They are educationally prepared to assess, diagnose, manage patient problems and perform procedures.

APRNs provide services in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, long term care, private offices and schools. Significantly, they practice in places where there is an increased demand for providers to meet the health needs of the communities they serve including psychiatric/mental health.

Health care systems can attest to the benefits of utilizing APRNs in acute, primary, long-term care, occupational and other community settings.

APRNs practice autonomously and interprofessionally with other health professionals to optimize patient outcomes. They provide direct care to a range of patients in acute, ambulatory, and community care settings.