

**VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING**  
**APRN PRESCRIBING TO IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER**  
**POSITION STATEMENT**

**Question:**

Is it appropriate and acceptable for an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse with prescriptive authority to write a prescription for a controlled substance for his or her own use or for an immediate family member?

**Definition:**

Immediate family includes the following: a spouse (or spousal equivalent), parent, grandparent, child, sibling, parent-in-law, son/daughter-in-law, brother/sister-in-law, step-parent, step-child, step-sibling, or any other person who is permanently residing in the same residence as the licensee.

**Background:**

According to the State Medical Board "it is unacceptable medical practice and unprofessional conduct to prescribe Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances for his or her own use. It is also unacceptable medical practice and unprofessional conduct for a licensee to prescribe Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances to a member of his or her immediate family, except in a bona fide emergency of short term and unforeseeable character."

Therefore, an APRN prescribing controlled substances for self and family raises many ethical questions and has inherent risks related to lack of objectivity

**Position Statement Which Reflects Nurse's Roles and Responsibilities:**

It is the opinion of the Board of Nursing that prescribing controlled substances listed in DEA Schedules II, III, and IV for his or her own use or for that of an immediate family member is inappropriate and unacceptable practice.

**References/Citations:**

Louisiana - Administrative Rules Defining Advanced Nursing Practice - LAC 46:XLVII - §4513.  
Authorized Practice D. 2. B. i. (c)

Texas Board of Nursing Position Statement – 15.22 APRNs Providing Medical Aspects of Care for Themselves or Others with whom there is a Close Personal Relationship – 01/2009

State of Vermont – Board of Medical Practice - Rule 4.3 - February 16, 2001

American Nurses Association (2001) - ANA Code of Ethics - Provision 2.4 – Professional Boundaries

Date of Initial acceptance: **December 2007**

Revised: December 2010

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Reviewed:

**This opinion is subject to change as changes in nursing practice occur.**