

Request for Charges to the Advance Practice Nursing Advisory Committee to Review Chapter 221, Advanced Practice Nurses, and to Discuss Issues relating to Advanced Practice Recognition

Summary of Request: Consider a request to charge the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee (APNAC) with review of Rule 221 that includes review and recommendations regarding issues related to advanced practice recognition.

Historical Perspective: During the 80th legislative session, the Nursing Practice Act was amended to add a provision that allows the Texas Board of Nursing to enter the APRN (advanced practice registered nurse) Compact. As options for implementing the APRN compact are explored, Rule 221 may require amendments. Therefore, staff requests that the APNAC be charged with reviewing the rule and making recommendations for change.

As part of that discussion, there will be two issues that the APNAC will need to examine. First, the issue of whether Texas should begin referring to nurses in advanced practice as APRNs rather than as APNs (advanced practice nurses). APRN is the term utilized in the compact language, and the term clearly identifies the licensee as both an advanced practice nurse and a registered nurse.

The other issue for discussion will be whether it would be in the best interests of the public to refer to authorization to practice as licensure and issue a license number rather than continuing to refer to advanced practice approval as an authorization that is linked to RN licensure. The process used to review and approve applicants as advanced practice nurses is a licensure process, even though it is not called a license. Calling the approval a license would not change the advanced practice nurse's scope of practice nor is it intended to replace RN licensure. Referring to advanced practice recognition as licensure may also assist with implementation of the APRN compact. The intent is for the committee to explore the pros and cons of each issue and make a recommendation to the Board along with any other recommended changes for Rule 221.

Pros and Cons:

Pros: Input from the APNAC regarding amendments to Rule 221 and discussion of issues related to recognition of advanced practice nurses will provide an opportunity for stakeholder input on issues that affect all advanced practice nurses. As representatives of both advanced practice nursing education and practice, APNAC members can provide information that will assist the Board with these issues.

Cons: None

Staff Recommendation: Move to charge the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee with reviewing Rule 221 and discussing issues related to recognition of advanced practice nurses. Committee recommendations shall be submitted for the Board's consideration at a future Board meeting.