

**Consideration of Request for Charge to NPAC to Review and Make Recommendations
Regarding Board Rule 217.16, Minor Incidents**

Summary of Request: Consider a request to charge the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee (NPAC) to discuss and make recommendations regarding amendments to Rule 217.16, Minor Incidents.

History: During the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee meeting on May 19, 2014, there was discussion regarding the definition or meaning of “contributed to” as stated in the Nursing Practice Act Section 301.401(1) (A) and Board Rule 217.16 (d) (1) (A) in an effort to find a common definition that will further clarify how a nurse’s actions or omissions contribute to the serious harm or death of a patient.

This discussion item was brought to the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee because participants in the Texas - Taxonomy of Error Root Cause Analysis of Practice Responsibility (TERCAP) pilot were not clear as to what types of nursing practice errors were minor incidents and should be entered into the Texas TERCAP online database and what types of nursing practice errors contributed to the serious harm or death of a patient and therefore, should be reported to the Board. The Texas TERCAP pilot was created as a result of the 82nd Legislature in 2011 and gave the Board the authority to adopt a standardized error classification system for utilization by nursing peer review committees in the evaluation of minor incidents.

Pros: Review of Rule 217.16 will provide the Board with an opportunity to gain input from the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee. The committee’s recommendations may help to assure the Board that the minor incident rule provides guidance to all nurses, Nursing Peer Review Committees and others in determining whether a nurse has engaged in conduct that indicates the nurse’s practice would pose a risk of harm to patients or others and should be reported to the Board.

Cons: None noted.

Recommendation: Move to charge the Nursing Practice Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations regarding Board Rule 217.16, Minor Incidents. The committee’s recommendations will be presented for the Board’s consideration at a future Board meeting.