

NH Board of Nursing

Position Statement Regarding the RN Role of the Nurse in Off-Label Medication Use

It is within the scope of practice for a nurse to administer off label medications and she/he is responsible and accountable for the components of medication administration which include but are not limited to the following:

- Preparing and administering medications in the prescribed dosage, route, and frequency,
- Observing, recording, and reporting desired effects, untoward reactions, and side effects of drug therapy,
- Intervening when emergency care is required as a result of medication therapy,
- Recognizing accepted prescribing limits and reporting deviations to the prescribing individual,
- Recognizing medication incompatibilities and reporting interactions or potential interactions to the prescribing individual,
- Providing patient education.

The unapproved use of a legal medication must be based on reasonable medical evidence with the same judgment as exercised in medical practice in general.

The previous position statement regarding the RN role in Off Label Medications has been revised by the Board of Nursing on March 17, 2016. The board discussed at length the previous statement allowing only RN's to administer off label medications.

The board determined *that an off label medication can be administered or delegated with an appropriate provider order.* The nurse should be familiar with the drug purpose and side effects in relation to the client that is receiving the medication.

Delegation of administration of medication should follow the NUR 404 rules found under www.nh.gov/nursing- Nurse Practice Act- Chapter 100-800.

Additionally, facilities/organizations should determine, in an established written policy for the administration of off label use of medication and what settings this practice may be appropriate. This determination should be based upon, but not limited to, the training and skill of the nurse, resources available, access to emergency medical services, and other interventions that could be instituted.