

Chapter 02: Historical Review of Prescriptive Authority: The Role of Nurses (NPs, CNMs, CRNAs, and CNSs) and Physician Assistants

Test Bank

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A primary care NP will begin practicing in a state in which the governor has opted out of the federal facility reimbursement requirement. The NP should be aware that this defines how NPs may write prescriptions:
 - a. without physician supervision in private practice.
 - b. as CRNAs without physician supervision in a hospital setting.
 - c. in any situation but will not be reimbursed for this by government insurers.
 - d. only with physician supervision in both private practice and a hospital setting.

ANS: B

In 2001, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services changed the federal physician supervision rule for CRNAs to allow state governors to opt out, allowing CRNAs to write prescriptions and dispense drugs without physician supervision.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

REF: 9

2. CRNAs in most states:
 - a. must have a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number to practice.
 - b. must have prescriptive authority to practice.
 - c. order and administer controlled substances but do not have full prescriptive authority.
 - d. administer medications, including controlled substances, under direct physician supervision.

ANS: C

Only five states grant independent prescriptive authority to CRNAs. CRNAs do not require prescriptive authority because they dispense a drug immediately to a patient and do not prescribe. Without prescriptive authority, they do not need a DEA number.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

REF: 9

3. A CNM:
 - a. may treat only women.
 - b. has prescriptive authority in all 50 states.
 - c. may administer only drugs used during labor and delivery.
 - d. may practice only in birthing centers and home birth settings.

ANS: B

CNMs have prescriptive authority in all 50 states. They may treat partners of women for sexually transmitted diseases. They have full prescriptive authority and are not limited to drugs used during childbirth. They practice in many other types of settings.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Remembering (Knowledge)

REF: 9

4. In every state, prescriptive authority for NPs includes the ability to write prescriptions:

- a. for controlled substances.
- b. for specified classifications of medications.
- c. without physician-mandated involvement.
- d. with full, independent prescriptive authority.

ANS: B

All states now have some degree of prescriptive authority granted to NPs, but not all states allow authority to prescribe controlled substances. Many states still require some degree of physician involvement with certain types of drugs.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

REF: 12

5. The current trend toward transitioning NP programs to the doctoral level will mean that:
- a. NPs licensed in one state may practice in other states.
 - b. full prescriptive authority will be granted to all NPs with doctoral degrees.
 - c. NPs will be better prepared to meet emerging health care needs of patients.
 - d. requirements for physician supervision of NPs will be removed in all states.

ANS: C

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing has recommended transitioning graduate level NP programs to the doctoral level as a response to changes in health care delivery and emerging health care needs. NPs with doctoral degrees will not necessarily have full prescriptive authority or be freed from requirements about physician supervision because those are subject to individual state laws. NPs will still be required to meet licensure requirements of each state.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

REF: 12

6. An important difference between physician assistants (PAs) and NPs is PAs:
- a. always work under physician supervision.
 - b. are not required to follow drug treatment protocols.
 - c. may write for all drug categories with physician co-signatures.
 - d. have both inpatient and outpatient independent prescriptive authority.

ANS: A

PAs commonly have co-signature requirements and work under physician supervision.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understanding (Comprehension)

REF: 17