Schedule II Drugs: Frequently Asked Questions

What is an advanced practice nurse (APN)?

Advanced practice nurses are registered nurses (RNs) who have received post graduate education, currently a Masters or Doctoral degree, to provide advanced clinical care to patients or specific groups of patients. Advanced practice nurses are licensed in the State of Ohio as RN's and are granted a certificate of authority (COA) in the State of Ohio which recognizes them as advanced practice nurses. In addition, they are certified by a national nursing organization.

How do APNs differ from Registered Nurses or Licensed Practical Nurses?

All nurses focus on the promotion of health, prevention of illness and the management of acute and chronic illnesses. APNs, through their advanced education and training, provide additional services according to a Standard Care Arrangement (SCA) developed between the APN and his/her collaborating physician.

What is a Standard Care Arrangement (SCA)?

The SCA is a written agreement between an APN and their collaborating physician(s) which outlines care delivery

Services that APNs may provide include:

- Assessment of patients through completion of health histories, procedures and physical examinations
- Develop a plan of care
- Order and interpret tests and x-rays
- Prescribe medications within the limits of the law
- Coordinate care
- Reassess and revise the plan of care as needed
- Provide family and patient education
- Consult with other members of the healthcare team

Titles of Advanced Practice Nurses

Advanced practice nurse is an umbrella term and encompasses certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNP), certified nurse midwives (CNM), certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA) and clinical nurse specialists (CNS).

Certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNP) collaborate with physicians to provide care to patients of all ages in a variety of settings. CNPs may specialize in a variety of areas including neonatology, pediatrics, school health, family and adult care, women's health, mental health, geriatrics, palliative and acute care.

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) are advanced practice nurses who provide and manage the care of individual patients or groups of patients with complex health problems. Through their advanced education, they become clinical experts in a specific patient population such as acute care, community health, oncology, women's health, psychiatry/mental health or adult health.

Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) provide preventative and primary care services to adolescents and women. CNMs care for women prior to, during, and after pregnancy and delivery. They manage and care for women during the normal birthing process and post- partum period and may provide gynecologic and primary care to women of all ages.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) administer anesthesia under the supervision of a physician, podiatrist or dentist in a variety of settings. CRNAs assist in the pre-anesthetic evaluation and post-operative management of patients, as well as the management of acute and chronic pain in a variety of settings. In Ohio, CRNA's are not eligible for a certificate to prescribe.

Who determines what medications an APN may prescribe?

The collaborating physician and the Committee for Prescriptive Governance (CPG).

What medications can an APN currently prescribe?

Advanced practice nurses, with the exception of CRNA's, can apply for a certificate to prescribe (CTP) with additional education and training. This CTP allows APNs to prescribe medications in accordance with the law from a formulary developed by a Committee for Prescriptive Governance (CPG). The multi-disciplinary CPG is composed of four physicians, a pharmacist member of the State Board of Pharmacy, a clinical pharmacist, a certified nurse practitioner, a certified nurse midwife and a clinical nurse specialist and a member of the Ohio Board of Nursing who is, at a minimum, a registered nurse.

What are legend drugs?

All medications which require a prescription are referred to as legend drugs. Examples include diabetes and blood pressure medications.

What are over the counter (OTC) medications?

Over the counter medications may be purchased by a consumer without a prescription. Examples include aspirin and ibuprophen.

What are Schedule I drugs?

Schedule I drugs are medications classified by the Drug Enforcement Agency with the highest potential for abuse. Schedule I medications currently have no accepted medical use. Examples include heroin, marijuana, LSD.

What are Schedule II drugs?

Schedule II drugs are medications classified by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) with high abuse potential. They may be opioids, medical stimulants or depressant drugs and may lead to psychological or physical dependence. Examples include: fentanyl (Duragesic) patches and oxycodone/acetaminophen (Percocet)

How are Schedule II drugs currently prescribed?

The DEA restricts Schedule II drugs by requiring a written prescription **(no phone in scripts**). No refills are permitted.