Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice Laws

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SUMMARY
The data shown on this map is longitudinal, and reflects nurse practitioner scope of practice laws in effect from May 1, 2015 through August 1, 2017. The map addresses whether nurse practitioners are provided full or limited practice authority, whether there is a transition to practice requirement that will give them greater autonomy after certain requirements are met, and a list of activities they may conduct without collaborating or working under the supervision of another health care provider.

ABOUT NURSE PRACTITIONER SCOPE OF PRACTICE LAWS & THE DATA
Nurse practitioners play a critical role in delivering health care services in the United States. As the U.S. health care system continues to expand, the demand for nurse practitioners is projected to increase significantly.

In some states, nurse practitioners may practice autonomously, while in others, they must work in collaboration or under the supervision of another health care provider. State scope of practice laws govern the level of autonomy nurse practitioners have to treat patients.

In states that provide full practice authority, nurse practitioners may have to participate in a transition to practice period with another provider before they can practice independently. In states that limit the practice authority of nurse practitioners, there are multiple supervision requirements that may be required between a collaborating provider and nurse practitioner: in-person meetings, meetings by telecommunication, on-site practice requirements, and chart review requirements. Jurisdictions that limit the practice authority of nurse practitioners can impose one or all of these collaboration requirements.

The data were produced by the Policy Surveillance Program in conjunction with the National Nurse-Led Care Consortium.

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Some findings from the dataset include:

- As of August 1, 2017, nurse practitioners have full practice authority in 23 states and the District of Columbia.
- In 10 states, nurse practitioners must satisfy a transition-to-practice requirement before they are granted full practice authority.
Twenty-seven states limit the practice authority of nurse practitioners. In all 27 states, nurse practitioners must collaborate with another health care provider to prescribe medication.

**NAVIGATING THE DATA**

There are two ways to navigate the data by clicking the **Filter** tab or the **Explore** tab — for each option, the data can be visualized in a map and table format or in jurisdiction profiles.

**Filter**
The dataset homepage will default to the Filter tab. Here, users may answer a series of questions to learn more about the characteristics of the laws. Answering more than one question will show all the jurisdictions that meet the combined criteria. Criteria selected will be listed above the questions, and can be removed by clicking the white X or by clicking “Reset” above the questions.

**Explore**
Users can access Explore by clicking the Explore tab in the bar above the questions. Using Explore, users will see the answers to one question across all jurisdictions.

The primary questions in this dataset are:

1. Must nurse practitioners collaborate with another provider in order to prescribe medication?
2. What activities can nurse practitioners perform independently of another provider?
3. How frequently must a nurse practitioner meet with a collaborating provider in person?
4. How frequently must a nurse practitioner meet with a collaborating provider by telecommunication?
5. How frequently must a nurse practitioner practice with a collaborating provider on-site?
6. What percentage of charts must a nurse practitioner submit to a collaborating provider for review?
7. How many nurse practitioners are permitted to collaborate with a provider?

**DISPLAYING THE RESULTS**

There are two display modes once criteria have been selected by using either the Filter or Explore tab — **Map display mode** and **Profiles display mode**.

**Map Display**
LawAtlas.org dataset homepages default to the map display mode. When querying the data using the Filter tab, all jurisdictions that meet the criteria selected will display in one tone of yellow. Those jurisdictions that do not meet the criteria selected will be colored gray. When querying the data using the Explore tab, the map will illuminate with colors from yellow to red that are associated with the various answer choices (the color-coding is defined by the key to the left of the map).

Below the map, a table will appear. Using the Filter or Explore tab to navigate the questions will change the display:
Using the Filter tab, you can select an unlimited number of criteria and the applicable jurisdictions that meet the combined criteria will be displayed in the table below.

Using the Explore tab, you can isolate a single criterion and the applicable jurisdictions will appear in the table below.

Profiles Display
The Profiles display presents the results of the criteria selected in a text-based format for each applicable jurisdiction. Using the Filter tab, jurisdictions that meet the criteria selected will display. Using the Explore tab, jurisdictions that meet the criterion selected will display. If no criteria are selected, the full profiles for each state will appear under both Filter and Explore.

Profile Legend
Within each Profile box, above the questions and answers, there are additional options and information useful in exploring the law:

| Toggle Legal Text – Selecting this option will show all the legal text used to answer questions for this jurisdiction. |
| Toggle Full Place Profile – Selecting this option will show all questions and answers for this jurisdiction, regardless of what was selected using the Filter or Explore tabs. |
| Toggle Size – Selecting this option will make the profile larger, but will not change the information displayed. |

Legal Text History – This interactive timeline displays when changes in the law have occurred within a jurisdiction. Using the arrows to the left or right, users may explore how the law has changed over time as new amendments to the law have been enacted. The timeline will change from gray to a shade of yellow when the jurisdiction passed its first relevant law. Each change in the law after that is marked by a break in the timeline.

Map and Profile Legend
There are a few symbols to be aware of in both Map and Profiles display modes:

| Section Symbol – Clicking this symbol will open a window that displays excerpts from the law that correspond to the question and answer. |
| Caution Note – Clicking on this symbol will open a small window that displays text that describes important caveats about the question and answer. |
DATASET RESOURCES
Each dataset homepage includes the following resources available for download:

- Data: The Data file exports in CSV format and may contain two tabs. The “Statistical Data” tab contains the legal variables coded in the dataset, displayed as values defined in the accompanying Codebook. The “Summary Data” tab contains the legal variables coded in the dataset in text form, as well as the accompanying citations and any caution notes that may be included. Note: if there is only one tab available for download it will be the “Statistical Data” as described above.

- Codebook: The Codebook defines all of the coded variables in the dataset. The Codebook lists the question, question type, variable name, variable value and variable label. The Codebook should be used in conjunction with the Statistical Data extract.

- Research Protocol: The Research Protocol is a comprehensive document that outlines the entire methodology of the project, including the scope, inclusion and exclusion criteria, data collection methods, definitions, coding scheme decisions, as well as the quality control process.

- Summary Report: The Summary Report provides a snapshot of important findings from the dataset.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
For more information about nurse practitioner scope of practice laws, see our related resources:


This collection of laws does not provide legal advice nor does it address enforcement of laws, administrative policies, case law, or any other sources of law. Should you have a specific question about these laws in your state, please contact an attorney in your jurisdiction.