



POSITION STATEMENT: Use of Samples by APRNs with Prescriptive Authority

FORMULATED: March 2002

REVISED: March 2019, September 2011

REVIEWED: March 2015

To: Pharmaceutical representatives and other interested parties

In May 2018, the new practice act permits Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) with prescriptive authority to “request, receive, and sign for professional samples including controlled substances in Schedules II through IV, and may distribute professional samples to patients as listed in the practice agreement, subject to federal and state regulations.

State and federal laws require that APRNs acquiring samples be licensed in their respective state, have prescriptive authority and practice in accordance with practice agreements developed with their respective physician (s). Pharmaceutical companies distributing professional samples are required by law to verify that the APRN is in compliance with these requirements.

In accordance with this legislation, the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina endorses verification of licenses and prescriptive authority through direct contact with the APRN. Pharmaceutical companies may verify that information with the individual APRN. Each Nurse Practitioner, Certified Nurse Midwife, and Clinical Nurse Specialist with prescriptive authority is able and willing to provide any information or documentation needed upon request.