Oregon Nurse Practice Act

Ruby R. Jason, MSN, RN
Executive Director
Oregon State Board of Nursing
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Can you answer the following question?

• What is your nursing independent scope of practice?
Would your answer be...
Why Nurses Have Trouble With This Question

• Thinking that the practice of nursing is how you practice nursing in your employment setting.
What does the practice act identify as practice

• Comprehensive assessment.
• Development of a plan of care to identify risks and goals regarding your client, be that client an individual, a group, a community, nurses who make up a nursing unit, etc.
• A plan to mitigate risks and obtain achievable goals during the encounter. That encounter may be a single visit, a procedure, a day, length of employment, ongoing...
• Prior to the nurse taking on the assignment under their license the nurse must verify that they have the knowledge, ability, skills, competencies, and resources to deliver safe patient care.
• Numbers and geography of patients are not a guarantee of patient safety. The nurse must individually determine if the assignment is safe based on their assessment of their clients.
Nursing in a Predicament

Under the law:

Once a nurse accepts an assignment under their license, it is no longer considered an “unsafe assignment”. To accept an assignment the assignment must be under the scope of the nurse: Knowledge, skills, competencies, abilities, and resources.

If the assignment is safe when taken but then outstrips the nurse in their knowledge, skills, competencies, abilities or resources they are required to seek assistance or notify someone in a position to act.
How Do You Choose Between Your License, Your Job, Your Clients, Your Peers?
What Does the Practice Act Say about....

• Documentation?
• Working with unregulated staff?
• Floating to another unit?
• Patient Abandonment?
• Maintaining Competency?
What Does the **Practice Act** Say about….

• The Plan of Care?
• Too busy to get all the “things” done?
• What if I do not agree with a medical order?
• Signing off medication waste?
How to Define “Scope of Practice” and “Working at the top of my license”