



TEXAS NURSES ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS AUTHORIZATION OF TEXAS NURSE PRACTITIONERS TO PRESCRIBE SCHEDULE 2 CLASSIFIED MEDICATION

Policy Position | 2026-2027 Policy Council

The Texas Nurses Association (TNA) remains committed to advancing the nursing profession by promoting the delivery of high-quality healthcare to all Texans. In line with this commitment, the TNA supports authorization of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in Texas to prescribe Schedule 2 classified medications. Our position is grounded in evidence-based practices, patient-centered care, and aligns with the current State of Texas nurse practitioner scope of practice.

Nurse Practitioners have years of specialized education and training and are equipped to provide comprehensive healthcare services, that include assessment, diagnosis, and management of acute and chronic conditions encompassing a wide range of clinical responsibilities that comprise valuable healthcare teams.

Nurse Practitioners already have the authority to prescribe Schedule 2 classified medications in the acute inpatient setting. Texas should expand this authority to include all practice settings.

Granting nurse practitioners, the authority to prescribe Schedule 2 medications enhances access to timely and effective medication management, particularly for patients in rural or underserved areas. This aligns with TNA's mission to promote health equity and improve healthcare outcomes for all Texans.

Nurse Practitioners receive extensive education and training in pharmacology, patient assessment, and prescribing practices. Revising the prescriptive authority fosters collaboration among healthcare professionals and promotes a team-based approach to patient care. This collaboration enhances communication, care coordination, and will ultimately improve patient outcomes.

Authorizing nurse practitioners to prescribe Schedule 2 classified medications, reflects a growing trend that 46 states and Washington D.C. have already recognized and recognizes the competence and accountability required to manage this class of medication safely and effectively within the nurse practitioner scope of practice.

In conclusion, the Texas Nurses Association strongly supports the authorization of Nurse Practitioners in Texas to prescribe Schedule 2 classified medications. This position aligns with national standards, evidence-based practices, enhances patient access to essential medications, and promotes collaborative, patient-centered care. The Texas Nurses Association urges policymakers to enact regulations that empower NPs to practice to the full extent of their education and training, thereby optimizing healthcare delivery and improving outcomes for all Texans.

References

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