

Consideration of Request for Charge to the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee

Summary of Request: Consider a request to charge the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee (APNAC) with review of Rules 222 and 228 for the purpose of recommending amendments to the rules as a result of the passage of House Bill (HB) 2561.

Historical Perspective: HB 2561 passed during the 85th Regular Legislative Session. The bill included a requirement that all prescribers will be required to check the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program prior to prescribing opioids, benzodiazepines, carisoprodol, or barbiturates. Drugs in these classes are known to have significant addictive potential and are prevalent in disciplinary cases involving non-therapeutic prescribing.

The Texas Prescription Monitoring Program is a database maintained by the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. All prescriptions for controlled substances are entered into the database. All prescribers can register for access to the database and review information regarding prescriptions for controlled substances filled for their patients. This is an important tool for prescribers to help avoid overprescribing drugs of abuse. Checking the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program is already part of the standard of care in pain management, and HB 2561 expands the requirement for checking the database to include almost all situations in which controlled substances in these four categories are prescribed. The only exception is when the patient is being treated for cancer-related pain; providers who treat these patients are not required to check the database in these situations.

Staff recommends that both Rule 222, related to prescriptive authority, and Rule 228, related to pain management, be amended. Doing so will reinforce the need to check the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program when prescribing these drugs and also reinforce the standard of care in pain management. Staff is requesting that the Board charge the APNAC with reviewing and recommending amendments to these rules. The APNAC's recommendation will be considered by the Board at a future Board meeting.

Pros: The Board is required to adopt rules. Charging the APNAC with reviewing and making recommendations regarding proposed rule amendments will provide an opportunity for the Board to obtain stakeholder input during the rule development process.

Cons: None noted.

Staff Recommendation: Move to charge the Advanced Practice Nursing Advisory Committee with reviewing Rules 222 and 228 for the purpose of recommending amendments to the rules as a result of the passage of House Bill 2561 related to requirements for APRN prescribers to check the Texas Prescription Monitoring Program prior to prescribing opioids, benzodiazepines, carisoprodol, or barbiturates.