



Background

- APRNs regularly sign forms associated with patient care as part of their everyday practice. These forms can include:
 - orders for treatment
 - referrals to specialists
 - health status documentation
 - other important care documents (see examples below)

Unfortunately, outdated policies sometimes prevent schools, agencies, or other health care providers from accepting forms with an APRN's signature creating delays for patients.

Global Signature Authority Legislation

- Gives APRNs the authority under Ohio law to sign and complete the paperwork associated with the patient care within their scope of practice.
- Reduces inefficiencies and delays caused by unnecessary outdated policies.
- Updates Ohio statute to match the paperwork authority with the current patient care authority. This is known as providing “global signature authority.”

Other States

- This issue is not unique to Ohio, and is sometimes referred to as authorizing APRNs to “treat the paperwork” for the treatment they are already authorized to provide for a patient.
- 14 states and the District of Columbia have broad-based, “global” signature authority laws: Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, North Carolina, Nevada, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.
 - Other states recognize NPs' ability to sign select forms.

Specific Benefits

- Recognizing APRNs' signatures on forms reduces costs and promotes efficient, timely care and patient choice.
- Some examples of important areas APRNs' signature recognition would impact include:
 - Certification of disability for patients to receive *disabled parking placards*
 - *Sports physicals* for student-athletes
 - *Pre-employment and health screening exams*
 - Patient Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) and other *end-of-life care documents*
 - *Vital statistics* documents
 - *Workers' compensation* forms for employees injured on the job
 - Documentation that a patient has a health need for emergency utilities