

## **Protocol Requirements for Licensed Nurse Practitioners**

**Adopted by the Board of Medicine on October 18, 2007**

**Adopted by the Board of Nursing on November 14, 2007**

In the *Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners, 18VAC 90-30-10 et seq.*, “Protocol” is defined as:

“a written statement, jointly developed by the collaborating physician(s) and the licensed nurse practitioner(s), that directs and describes the procedures to be followed and the delegated medical acts appropriate to the specialty practice area to be performed by the licensed nurse practitioner(s) in the care and management of patients”.

The protocol should include:

- A description of the procedures that the licensed nurse practitioner (LNP) will perform and any medical acts delegated to the LNP in accordance with his or her specialty training.
- Guidelines for availability and ongoing communications that provide for and define consultation among the collaborating parties and the patient that address, at a minimum, the availability of the collaborating physician proportionate to such factors as practice setting, acuity, and geography.
- Provisions for periodic joint evaluation of services provided and review of patient care outcomes.
- Provisions for periodic review and revision of the protocol.
- Authorization for the LNP’s for signatures, certifications, stamps, verifications, affidavits and endorsements consistent with 18VAC90-30-120(C).
- Authorization to refer patients for physical therapy.
- Signature of the LNP(s) and the physician(s).

The LNP is required to:

- Keep the protocol on file with the LNP and/or the employing medical practice/hospital.
- Make the protocol available for review by the Board of Nursing.
- Have a protocol pertaining to each place that he/she is actively practicing.

It is not a requirement that a copy of this protocol be submitted to the Board of Nursing to obtain or renew the professional license.

The “protocol” referenced in this document is not the same as the “practice agreement,” which must be filed with the Board of Nursing for prescriptive authority, which does require medical direction and supervision.