

1. **Advanced Practice Registered Nurses seek Unsupervised, Independent Practice in NC ...**
2. **Optometrists seek to perform Surgery on NC patients with little training ...**
3. **Naturopaths seek certification or study when new licensure effort doesn't seem possible ...**

# SCOPE of practice

## Unsupervised APRNs

The well-formed coalition of nursing groups continue to seek independent practice for all APRNs in NC.

The focus of the effort has been advanced under the idea that APRNs can solve a physician shortage crisis in rural areas across NC.

APRNs are an invaluable part of the medical team but full and unrestricted independent practice is not the way to address the needs of our rural citizens or lower overall healthcare costs.

NCMS continues to oppose this current proposal in the NC General Assembly while also examining the needs for health care delivery in the future through a recently appointed taskforce.

## Surgery on the EYE

Optometrists sprang from the beginning of this session with furied force in an effort to expand their scope of practice into surgery.

Ophthalmologists from across NC responded in partnership with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the NCMS and other state and national specialties to oppose this effort. The bill passed the NC House as a study but did not advance through the NC Senate.

The bill remains under intense discussion and debate.

## Naturopaths continue efforts

Naturopaths continue to work hard to seek licensure in NC. Their efforts have been stymied by the lack of enthusiasm by the NC General Assembly to approve any new licensure boards.

In response, Naturopaths have sought certification as an alternative. The NCMS has worked to ensure that any bill moving forward would include an appropriate definition of their practice, strong education requirements and meaningful oversight by their new board.

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PO Box 27167 • Raleigh, NC 27611  
919-833-3836 • 800-722-1350