



MDDCSAM is the Maryland state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine whose members are physicians and other health providers who treat people with substance use disorders.

SB 513 Health Occupations - Clinical Nurse Specialists - Prescribing Authority
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs. February 10, 2022

OPPOSE

MDDCSAM is opposed to granting prescribing authority to Clinical Nurse Specialists, who have historically never prescribed medication.

The training of Clinical Nurse Specialists is not the same as that received by Nurse Practitioners, in ways that are pertinent to the ability to prescribe medication.

Prescribing opioid pain medications is an example of a high risk activity. Clinical Nurse Specialists are often hospital-based, and perioperative opioid prescribing has been identified as a significant factor in the development of “New Persistent Opioid Use.” 4 - 8% of patients undergoing common surgeries develop New Persistent Opioid Use long-term, based on the way these medications are currently prescribed. This is now one of the most common complications of surgery, and is likely a contributor to the development of opioid use disorder. (See references).

We strongly urge an unfavorable report .

Joseph A. Adams MD, FASAM, Chair, Public Policy Committee

REFERENCES:

“Perioperative Opioid Prescribing has been Associated with Persistent Opioid Use”

www.cdc.gov/acute-pain/postsurgical-pain/index.html

Michigan OPEN (Opioid Prescribing Engagement Network). <https://michigan-open.org>

Brescia AA, et al. Impact of Prescribing on New Persistent Opioid Use After Cardiothoracic Surgery. Ann Thorac Surg. 2019 Oct;108(4):1107-1113.

Young JC, et al. Postsurgical Opioid Prescriptions and Risk of Long-term Use: An Observational Cohort Study Across the United States Ann Surg. 2019 Aug 9.

Brummett CM, et al. New Persistent Opioid Use after Minor and Major Surgical Procedures in US Adults. JAMA Surg.2017;152:e170504.
