

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

# LEVERAGING PROVIDERS' REACH: SCOPE OF PRACTICE

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

# Physician Shortages

- Physicians who practice in rural areas often serve large geographic areas.
- These areas also tend to have a shortage of hospitals and other health care facilities.
- Demographic shifts will increase demand for primary care services in the coming years.



# Why does Scope of Practice matter?

- These policies are just one strategy lawmakers can consider to address provider shortages.
- Laws and regulations vary by state
- Scope of practice policies can be contentious.



# Scope of Practice

- Scope of Practice: what a health professional can and cannot do to or for a patient
- Defined by state boards of medicine, board of nursing, etc. often with guidance or instruction (via statute) from the legislature
- Policymakers balance increasing access through expanding providers' scope of practice, with ensuring patient safety and quality of care



# ScopeofPracticePolicy.org



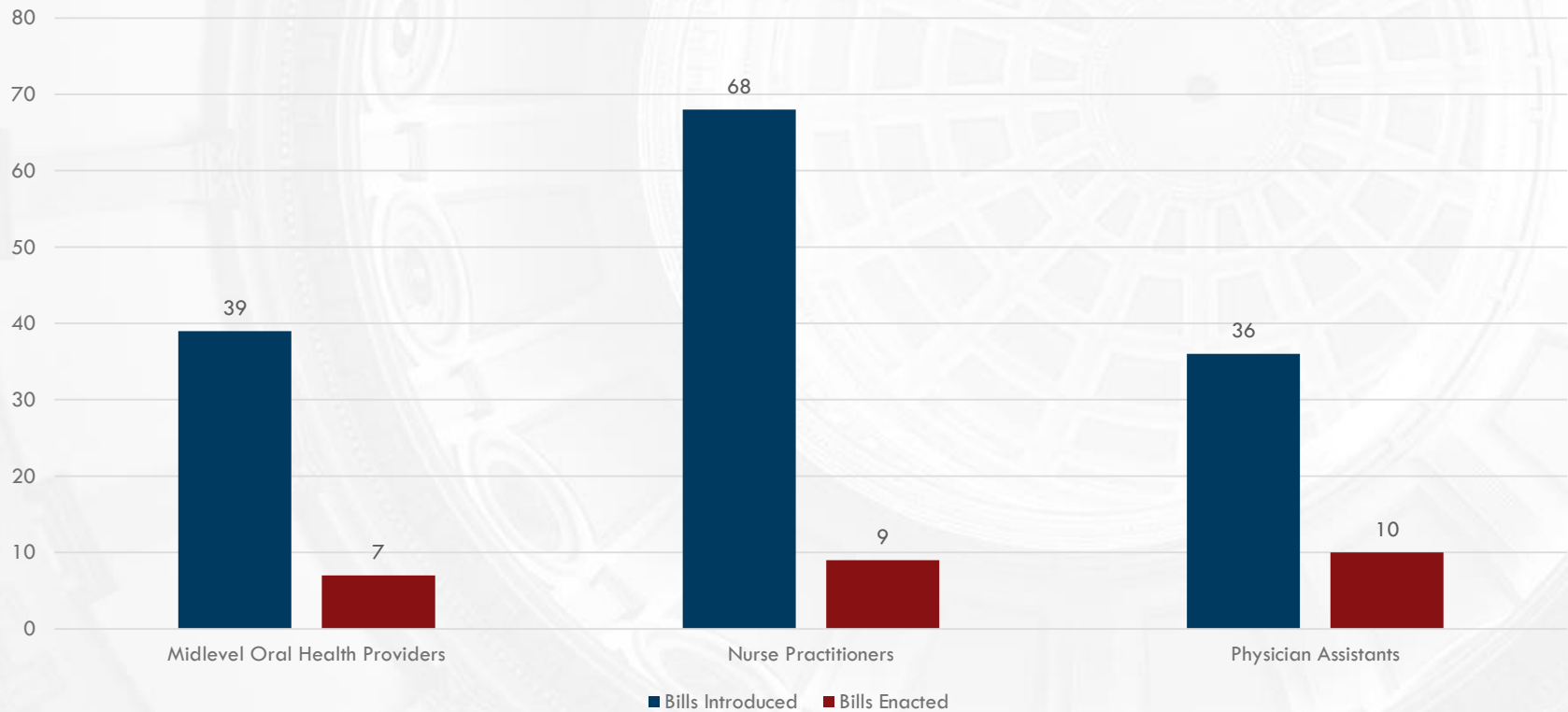
SCOPE OF  
PRACTICE POLICY

- Legislative Tracking
- Nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dental hygienists and dental therapists
- Additional scope of practice resources



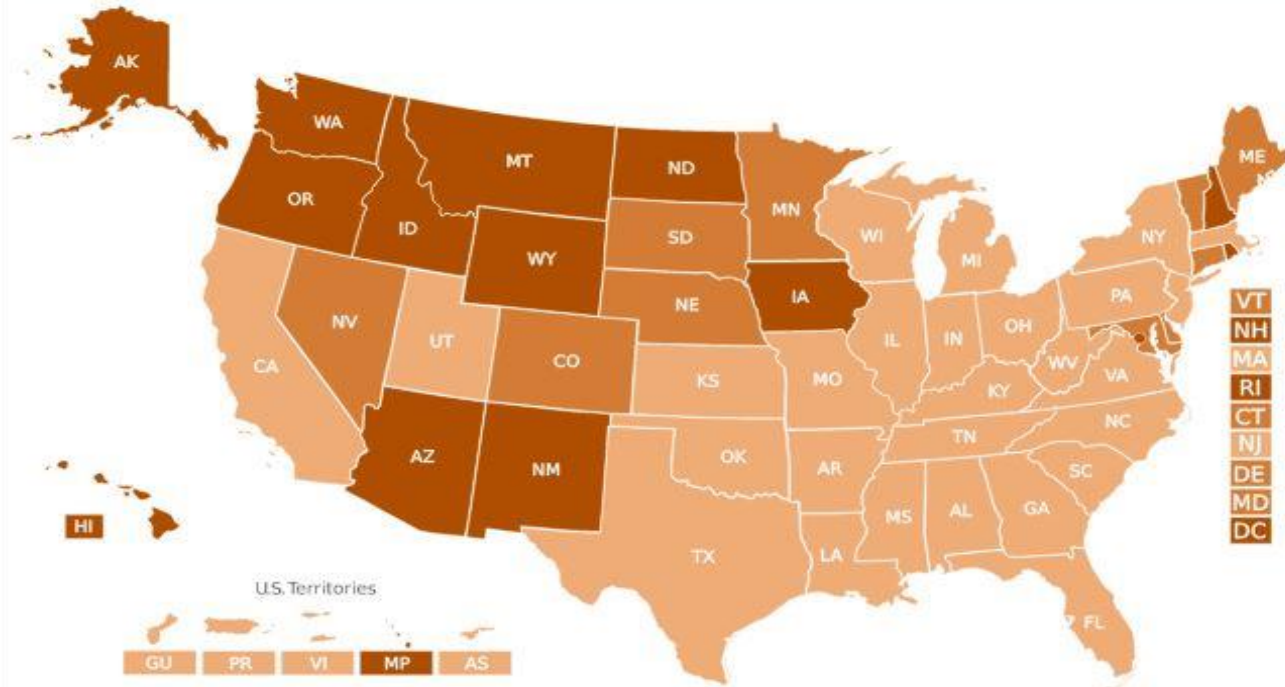
# 2015-2016 Legislation

Number of Bills Introduced and Enacted Expanding the Roles of Each Provider  
2015-2016






# Nurse Practitioners

## ▼ PRACTICE AUTHORITY



Interactive map: Select a state to get more information.

### LEGEND

-  Physician relationship required [more info](#)
-  Transition to independent practice period required [more info](#)
-  Full independent practice authority [more info](#)









# Nurse Practitioners

## ▼ NURSE PRACTITIONER AS A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER



Interactive map: Select a state to get more information.

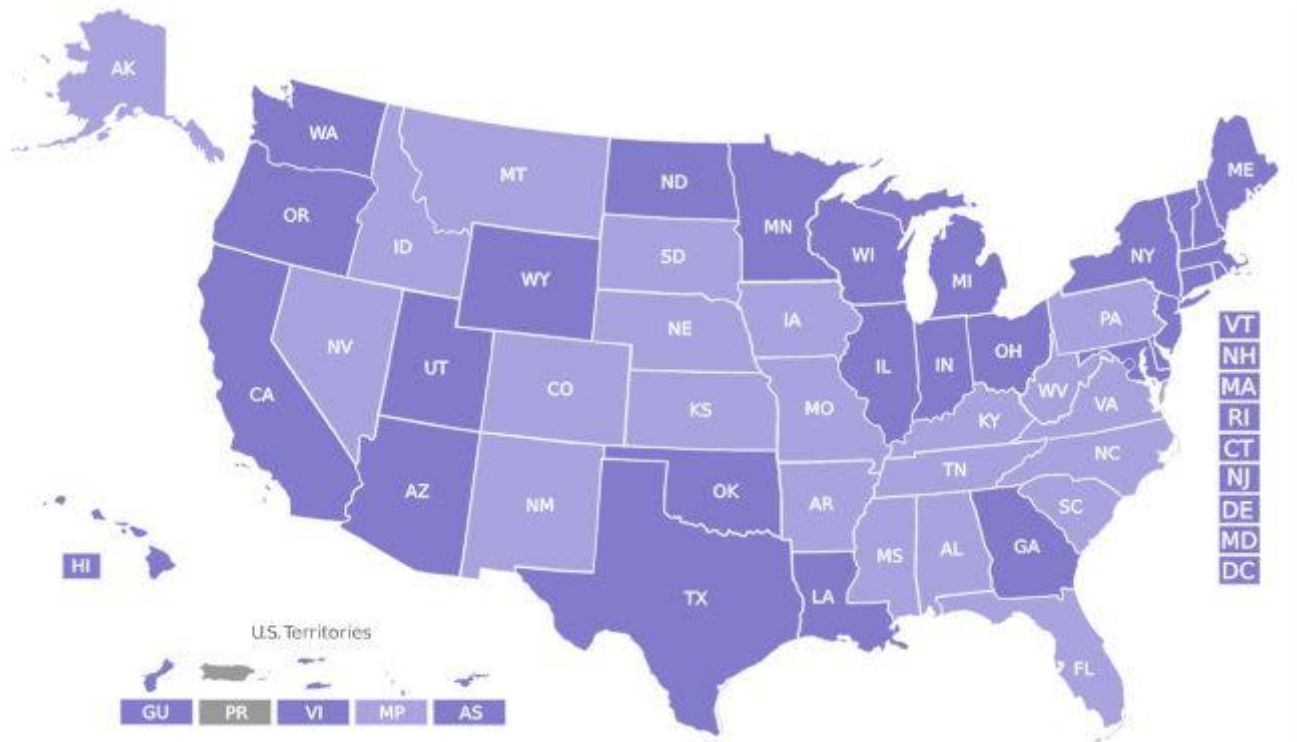
### LEGEND

-  PCP role not recognized in policy [more info](#)
-  PCP role recognized in policy [more info](#)





# Physician Assistants

## ▼ SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS



Interactive map: Select a state to get more information.

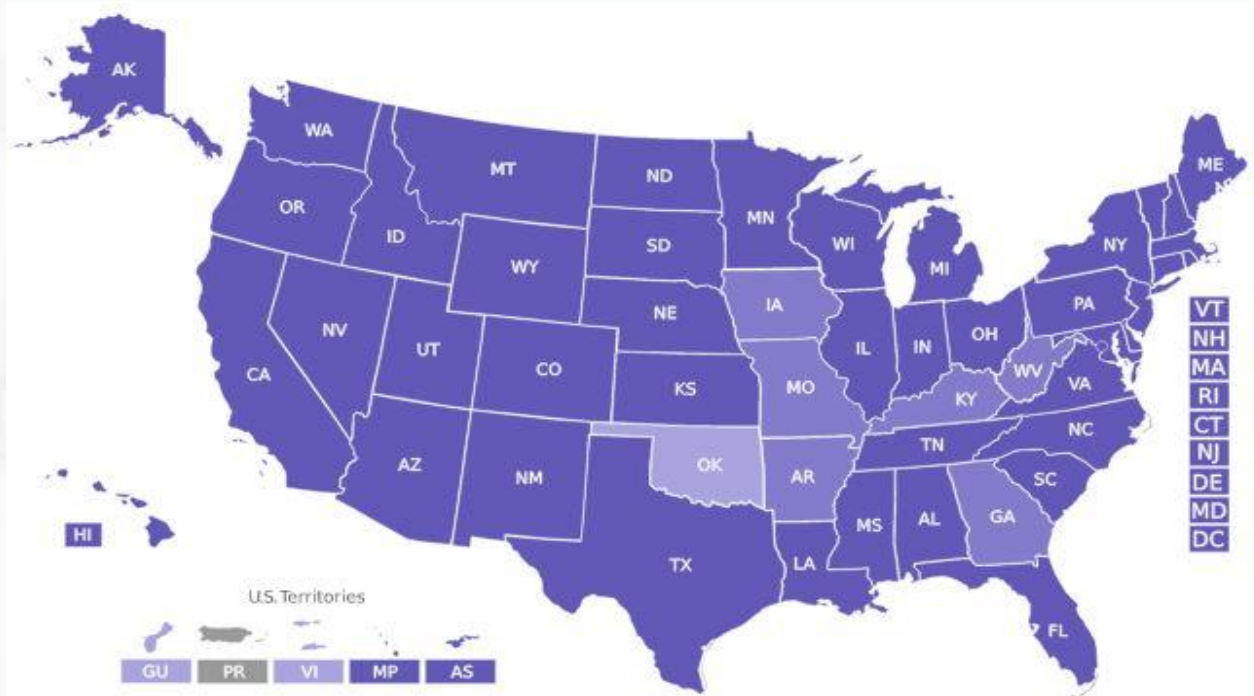
### LEGEND

-  Supervision determined by the State Medical Board or law [more info](#)
-  Supervision determined at the practice level [more info](#)






# Physician Assistants

## PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS



Interactive map: Select a state to get more information.

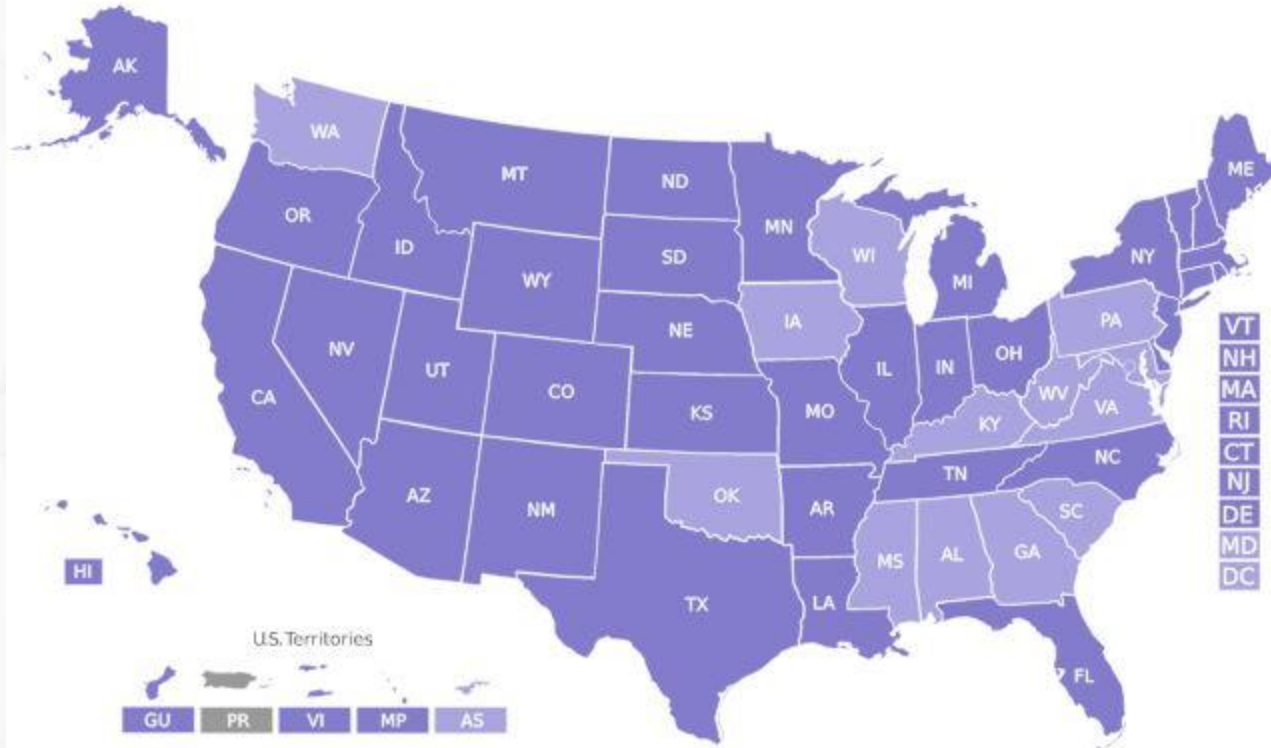
### LEGEND

-  Prescriptive authority determined by the State Medical Board or law [more info](#)
-  Prescriptive authority excludes certain medications [more info](#)
-  Prescriptive authority determined at the practice level [more info](#)





# Physician Assistants

## ▼ SCOPE OF PRACTICE DETERMINATION



Interactive map: Select a state to get more information.

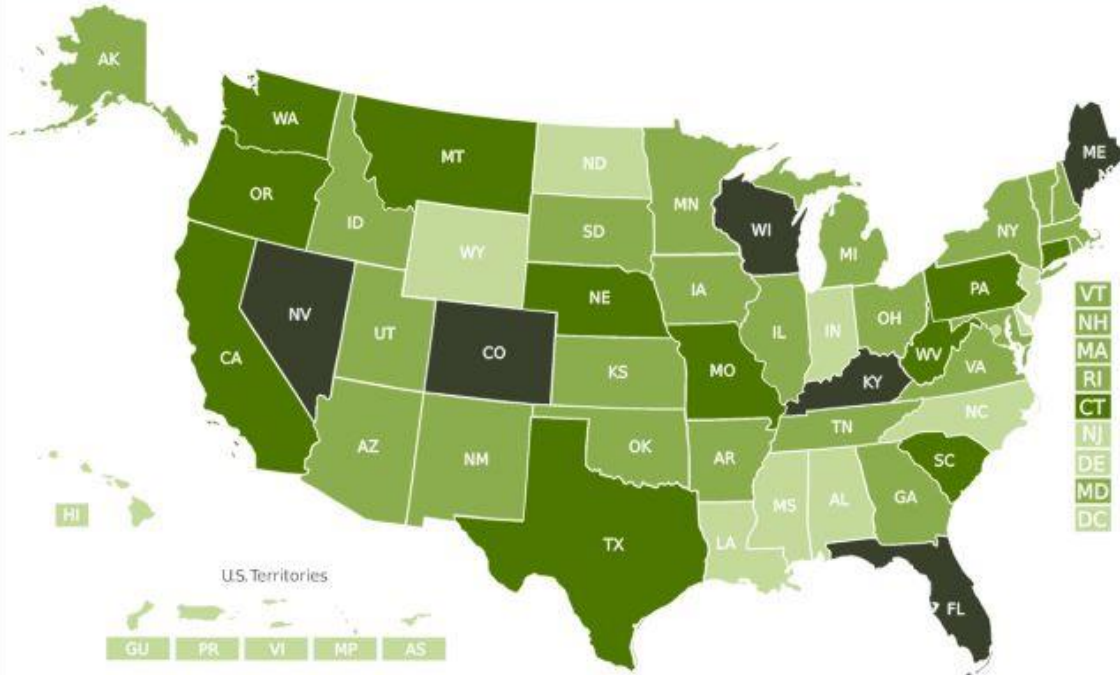
### LEGEND

-  SOP determined by the State Medical Board or law [more info](#)
-  SOP determined at the practice level [more info](#)



# Dental Hygienists

## ▼ DENTAL HYGIENISTS WITH DIRECT ACCESS

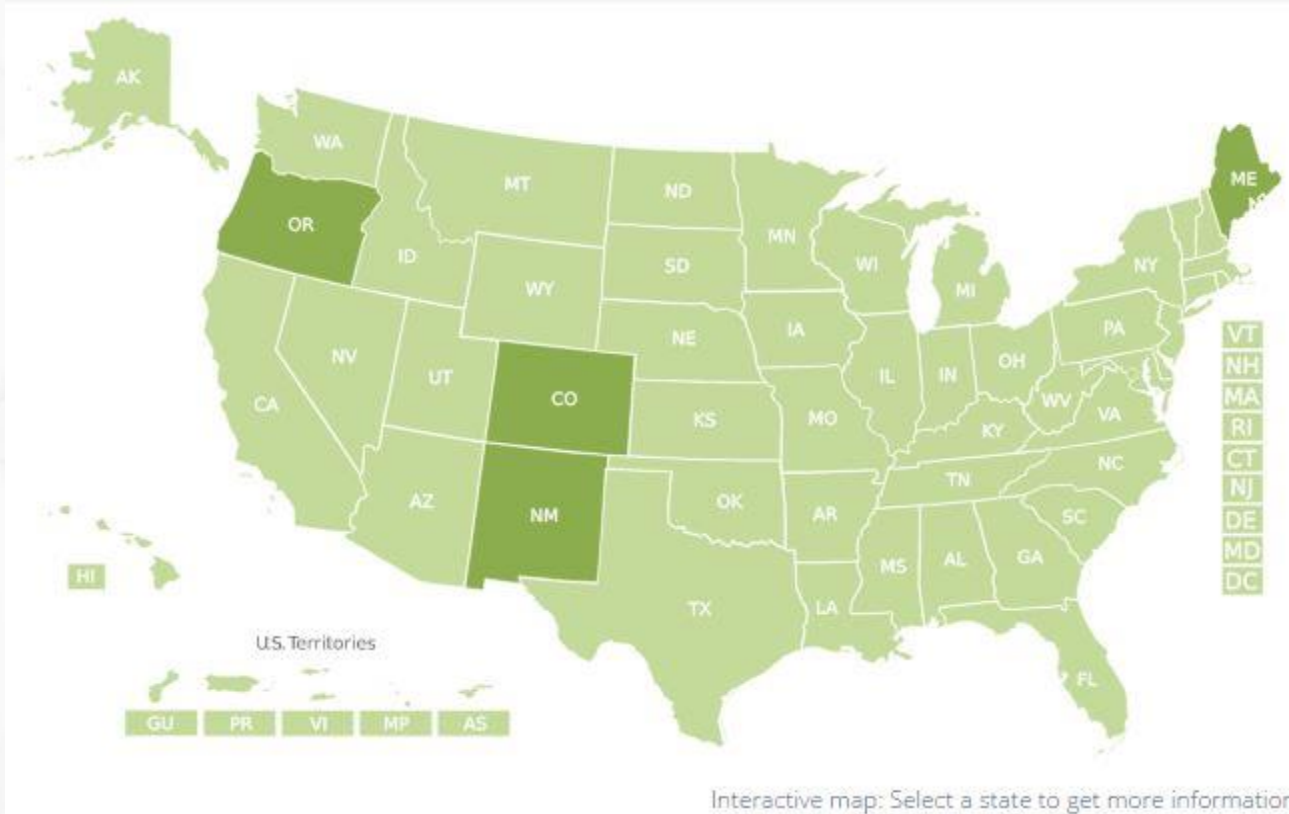


Interactive map: Select a state to get more information





# Dental Hygienists

## ▼ DENTAL HYGIENISTS WITH PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY



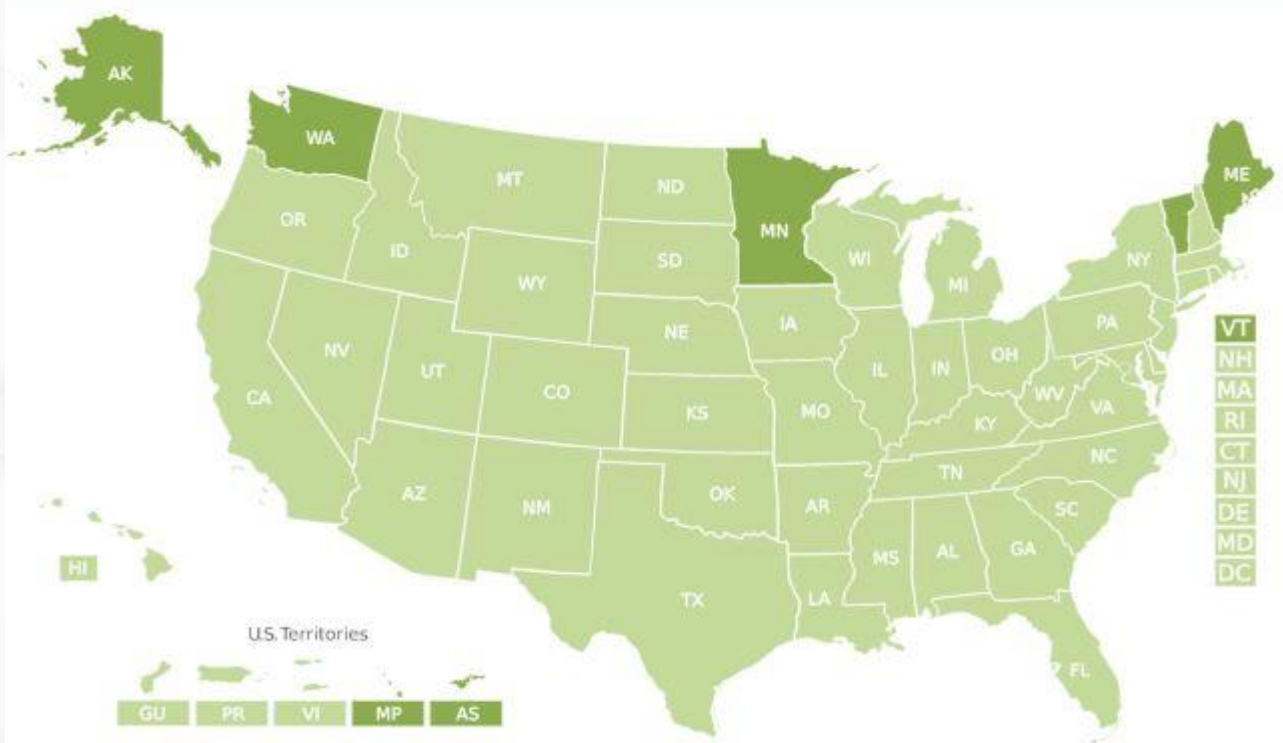
### LEGEND

-  Prescriptive authority not recognized in state or territory [more info](#)
-  Prescriptive authority recognized in state or territory [more info](#)





# Dental Therapists

## ▼ DENTAL THERAPISTS



Interactive map: Select a state to get more information.

### LEGEND

-  Dental therapists not recognized in state or territory [more info](#)
-  Dental therapists recognized in state or territory [more info](#)



# Recent Legislative Enactments

- South Dakota: Nurse practitioners may practice without physician supervision
- New Mexico: Physician assistants may have a collaborative practice relationship with a physician
- Georgia: Dental hygienists may practice with direct access







# Colorado Scope of Practice Policy: State Profile

Colorado scope of practice laws allow for the licensing of dental hygienists, nurse practitioners, and physicians assistants. Under Colorado law dental hygienists may perform most of their authorized procedures without supervision. However, dental hygienists must be supervised by a licensed dentist when preparing study casts, administering local anesthesia, or placing interim therapeutic restorations. Colorado law... [More »](#)

## COLORADO SOP LEGISLATION

### 3 Results

#### CO S 74

**Medication-Assisted Treatment Pilot Program** — Concerns the creation of a pilot program in certain areas...

#### CO S 158

**Physician Duties Delegated To Physician Assistant** — Concerns the ability of a physician assistant to perform functions...

#### CO H 1010

**Dental Practice Act And Dental Hygiene** — Concerns the authority of the Colorado dental board to promulgate...

## ▼ NURSE PRACTITIONERS

### Practice Authority

An NP must have a regulated collaborative relationship with either a physician or advanced practice nurse. Once provisional prescriptive authority is granted, the NP must obtain 1,000 hours of documented experience in a mutually structured prescribing mentorship with either a physician or advanced practice nurse who has full prescriptive authority and experience in prescribing medications. **Colo. Rev. Stat. §12-38-111.6**

### Prescriptive Authority

An NP is authorized by the State Board of Nursing to prescribe drugs after certain requirements are met, including educational classes and a preceptorship. Upon conclusion of meeting the requirements, provisional authority may be granted and the NP may prescribe drugs and Schedule II-V controlled substances. A mentorship with a physician or NP with full prescriptive authority must be completed within three years after receiving provisional authority. An articulated plan for safe prescribing must also be developed in the mentorship. **Colo. Rev. Stat. §12-38-111.6, Colo. Board of Nursing Rules Chapter 15**

### Nurse Practitioner as a Primary Care Provider

NPs are recognized in state policy as primary care providers. The NP must practice within a specific population focus (e.g. neonatal, pediatric, women's health, adult, family, mental health). **Colo. Board of Nursing Rules Chapter XIV 1.10**



# Legislative Search

This searchable legislative database brings you up-to-date, real-time information about scope of practice legislation that has been introduced in the 50 states and D.C. You can search 2015 and 2016 legislation by state, topic, keyword, year, status or primary sponsor.

For an historical perspective of scope of practice laws from 2011-2013, please visit the [NCSL legislative database of archived scope of practice laws](#).

<b>Topics</b> <span>✕</span>	<b>States</b> <span>✕</span>	<b>Current Disposition</b> <span>✕</span>	
Dental Hygienist Direct Access Dental Hygienist Prescriptive Authority Dental Therapists Other Dental Bills	AL AR AZ CA	Enacted Failed Failed - Adjourned Pending	
<b>Keyword</b> <span>✕</span>	<b>Bill Number</b> <span>✕</span>	<b>Session Year</b> <span>✕</span>	<b>Author</b> <span>✕</span>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>SEARCH</b>		<b>RESET</b>	





SCOPE OF  
PRACTICE POLICY

[ScopeofPracticePolicy.org](http://ScopeofPracticePolicy.org)

Questions?

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