



Bulletin Title: Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Role in the FD-12 Process

Bulletin ID: 128

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On November 26, 2021, the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH or Department) published Final Rulemaking¹ that amended Title 22-A District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) Chapters 25, 30, 34, 37, 63, 65 and 80 to expand the role of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) with psychiatry as a specialty area of practice in the Department's system of care to align with their current scope of practice as defined by the District of Columbia Department of Health.² Recently, the Department learned that there is confusion among providers about the role of APRNs in completing and executing the Application for Emergency Hospitalization (FD-12). The Department is publishing this bulletin to clarify the role of APRNs in the FD-12 process.

The emergency hospitalization process is governed by D.C. Code § 21-521, which authorizes the following individuals to seek emergency hospitalization (including completing and signing an FD-12) for any person the writer believes to be mentally ill, and because of mental illness, may pose a danger to self or others:

1. An Officer Agent certified by DBH pursuant to Title 22-A DCMR Chapter 76;
2. An officer authorized to make arrests in the District of Columbia; and
3. Physician or qualified psychologist of the person in question.

The Final Rulemaking did not alter or amend the emergency hospitalization statute or the role of APRNs in the emergency hospitalization process. APRNs do not possess independent authority to write the FD-12 or to seek emergency hospitalization.

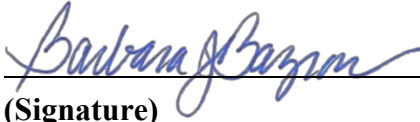
In accordance with Title 22-A DCMR Chapter 76, APRNs may become DBH-certified Officer Agents with authority to seek emergency hospitalizations pursuant to D.C. Code § 21-521 (including completing and executing FD-12). **Only APRNs who have successfully completed the DBH Officer-Agent training are eligible to seek emergency hospitalization in the District of Columbia, and complete and execute FD-12 form.**

¹See <https://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Common/NoticeDetail.aspx?NoticeId=N116372>.

To promote transparency, all practitioners should introduce themselves to consumers/clients and their families by stating their names and their level of licensure. Providers should also familiarize themselves with governing laws and regulations related to licensure and scope of practice. Please contact Atiya Jackson, Deputy Director, Accountability Administration, at atiya.jackson@dc.gov for any questions or concerns.

Approved By:

**Barbara J. Bazron, Ph.D.
Director, DBH**

 08/24/2022
(Signature) (Date)