

Who Has Prescribing Authority in Wisconsin?

A comprehensive review

by Maria Wopat, PharmD

PSW receives numerous questions concerning which practitioners have what prescribing authority within the state of Wisconsin. This table was created as a member service to address these questions. This list is not exhaustive and may change over time. All of the reference rules and statutes that are listed can be easily accessed on the Internet. Two especially helpful links include the following:

Wisconsin Administrative Code Composite

Table of Contents <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/codtoc.html> — This webpage includes links to the numerous licensing boards that exist in Wisconsin.

The Updated Wisconsin Statutes & Annotations

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html> — This webpage allows someone to enter in the exact statute they are searching for (for example, if someone wanted to investigate further what “Ch 453.02(6)” states, they would type exactly those terms in the search box and be taken to the exact statute).

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Practitioner Type	Prescribing Limitations	Independent Prescribing Authority?	Reference
Physician (MD), Osteopath (DO)	No limitations (very broad)	Yes	
Dentist (DDS, DMD)*	Limited by scope of practice (treating conditions of the oral cavity, i.e. the mouth)	Yes	Ch 447.01(8) DE 5.02
Podiatrist (DPM)	Limited by scope of practice (treating conditions of the foot)	Yes	Ch 448.60
Veterinarian (DVM)	Limited by scope of practice (treating animals)	Yes	Ch 453.02(6) VE 7.06
Optometrist (OD)	Limited to particular lists of "diagnostic pharmaceutical agents" and "therapeutic pharmaceutical agents**	Yes	RL 10.01 & 10.02
Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP)	Limited according to APNP's area of competence***	Yes	N 8.06
Physician Assistant (PA)	Limited by dependent prescriber status (requires having "written guidelines" that are agreed upon by PA and supervising physician)#	No	Med 8.07 & 8.08
Licensed Nurse (RN, LPN, LVN)	No prescribing authority in Wisconsin	No	Ch 441.001 N 6 & 7.04
Nurse Midwife (CNM, NM)	No prescribing authority in Wisconsin	No	Ch 441.15 N 4.06 & 4.07
Pharmacist (RPh, PharmD)	No prescribing authority in Wisconsin	No	Phar 10
Dental Hygienist (RDH)	No prescribing authority in Wisconsin	No	DE 3 & 5
Chiropractor (DC)	No prescribing authority in Wisconsin	No	Chir 4 & 6.02
Physical Therapist (DPT)	No prescribing authority in Wisconsin	No	Ch 448.50

*DDS stands for Doctor of Dental Surgery and DMD stands for Doctor of Dental Medicine. There is no difference in education or prescribing authority between these degrees. The type of degree depends on the school from which the dentist graduated.

**According to RL 10.01(8), a "diagnostic pharmaceutical agent" is "any topical ocular diagnostic pharmaceutical agent which an optometrist uses to determine the visual efficiency of the human visual system..." According to RL 10.01(10), a "therapeutic pharmaceutical agent" is "a drug which is prescribed or administered for ocular therapeutic purposes". RL 10.01 contains lists of drugs that encompass the diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents that may be used within an optometrist's scope of practice.

***According to N 8.06(3), an APNP "may not prescribe, dispense or administer any amphetamine, sympathomimeticamine drug or compound designated as a schedule II controlled substance..." except for the use as an adjunct to opioid analgesic compounds for the treatment of cancer-related pain or the treatment of narcolepsy, hyperkinesia, drug-induced brain dysfunction, epilepsy, or depression shown to be refractory to other therapeutic modalities.

#According to Med 8.10, "no physician may concurrently supervise more than two physician assistants unless the physician submits a written plan for the supervision of more than two physician assistants and the board approves the plan".