

**Alabama Board of Nursing
Orthopaedic Specialty Protocol**

Certification Specialties Eligible: Family, Adult, Adult Gerontology, Gerontology, and Acute Care

Restricted Specialties: Oncology, Hospice and Palliative Care, and Pediatric

Skill/Procedure Requested: Arthrocentesis, Joint Injection of Shoulder, Elbow, Knee, Ankle, Injection of Greater Trochanteric Bursa

Skill/Procedure Exclusions: Injections of the Hip Joint

1. The CRNP and physician submit a request for approval to the Alabama Board of Nursing ABN and Board of Medical Examiners (ABME) first. This request may include a completed New Skill Request Template (Available on the ABN Website under the Advanced Practice tab) or all the components required on the template.

2. The collaborating physician and CRNP must submit an application to the Alabama Board of Nursing to MODIFY or ADD the Collaborative Practice with the addition of the Orthopaedic Specialty Protocol. This may occur at the same time as the request above.

After authorization by the ABN and ABME, the CRNP may perform supervised procedures and accumulate documentation to complete the initial approval process. Documentation of procedures for Initial Approval shall be submitted to the ABN and ABME for review. The CRNP and collaborating physician must maintain documentation of procedures performed annually and provide the documentation upon the request of either Board.

Note: Supervised practice must be documented on ABN/ABME form. Use a separate form for each anatomic site. Record at least 25 procedures cumulative for all sites with at least three procedures for each joint site.

3. After approval from ABN/ABME the CRNP/Physician may proceed with training.

ABN: Orthopaedic

Restricted NP Specialties: Although Joint Aspiration and Injection procedures are not generally associated with the nurse practitioner specialties of Hospice and Palliative Care, Oncology, and Pediatrics, there may be unique circumstances where the procedure would be appropriate for the protocol of an individual CRNP. The CRNP and physician must apply to the Alabama Board of Nursing and the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners, providing rationale and protocols for the procedures in their practice.