

Title: St. Charles Health System Policy: Physician Self -Prescribing	Document #: 9405 Version: 2
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SUMMARY OF POLICY:

St. Charles Health System does not allow physicians or others licensed independent providers to prescribe for themselves or their family members.

SCOPE:

This is a system-wide policy that applies to all locations and departments.

RATIONALE:

This policy exists because of the AMA Code of Ethics and Oregon Medical Board does not support physicians or other licensed independent providers to self-prescribe.

DEFINITION(S):

Prescribe- Includes the ordering of laboratory tests, medications, tests, procedures and other therapies.

Physician or other licensed independent providers- Refers to any member of the medical staff or any credentialed Advanced Practice Provider or anyone eligible to place orders independently or on behalf of another at any St. Charles Health System hospital or clinics.

Medical Record- Refers to any St. Charles Health System Electronic Health Records systems.

POLICY:

It is the policy of St. Charles Health System to not allow any physician or other licensed independent providers to prescribe for themselves or their family members. This includes all prescriptions, ordering of tests, procedures or therapies which are considered the practice of medicine and are not to be provided to oneself or a member of one's family.

PROCEDURES (as an Attachment):



All prescriptions are to be accompanied by an entry into the medical record for the patient. Per St. Charles Health System policy, no one is permitted to access his or her own medical record or the medical record of a family member. Further, you must order tests, procedures, etc. in the patient's medical record or supply a written order on paper to be placed in the medical records. One must access one's own electronic record or family members record, which is not allowed per St. Charles' policy and procedures.

Any order for self or a family member will be rejected by St. Charles Health System.

REFERENCES:

AMA Code of Ethics except in an emergency (<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ethics/treating-self-or-family>)

New England Medical Journal, outlines the many pitfalls associated with this behavior is attached to this policy.

Oregon Medical Board states the following.

1. In the Provider Handbook (attached) a prescription (an order for a lab test is a prescription) must be accompanied by a note in the patient's medical records. The Oregon Medical Board previously determined that physicians should not write prescriptions unless they have conducted an adequate encounter with the patient, and document this encounter in the medical record.
2. This behavior (prescription without documentation is also cited as an example of unprofessionalism (page 38).
3. Further, the handbook states, "Do not prescribe for yourself, family or friends except in limited circumstances and with appropriate documentation" (page 41).