

A child in rural Florida was brought to a clinic with a similar injury where a Nurse Practitioner was on duty. The child had a compound fracture and was screaming in pain. The Nurse Practitioner could not administer this child pain medication because of current state law.

This Nurse Practitioner has a DEA license from Alaska and competently treated similar fractures and prescribed pain medications for years in Alaska, but in Florida he could not give this child medication and could not begin to stabilize the fracture.

The child needed pain medication to stabilize the fracture and be transported to a critical access hospital for treatment.

If the nurse practitioner had the ability to administer the medicine, this child could have been easily stabilized and transported by his parents to the hospital.

Because the Nurse Practitioner could not administer the medications, an ambulance was called. It took 30 minutes for the ambulance to arrive and the child lay writhing in pain.

The paramedics, who have less than 2 years of training, used a protocol to administer pain medication to the child. Because the child at this point was so distraught, he had to be transported by ambulance to the hospital.

This child was left in pain and unnecessary resources were spent to get him care because Florida law prevents Nurse Practitioners from prescribing pain medications.

The Nurse Practitioner has seven years of education and training that included the treatment of such injuries but could not prescribe the medication.

It is time to change the law in Florida. Patients are suffering.