



## Nursing and the Privilege of Prescription: 1893-2000

By Arlene W Keeling

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Considerable controversy exists at the state and national level both within and among the professions of medicine, nursing, and pharmacy concerning the issue of granting and/or expanding the privilege of prescription to nurses. Arlene W. Keeling identifies and describes the informal and formal roles nurses played over the course of the twentieth century in dispensing, furnishing, and prescribing medications. The book is built around a series of case studies representing diverse geographic areas of the United States during different decades. The major thesis of *Nursing and the Privilege of Prescription, 1893-2000* is that the amount of freedom nurses have had with regard to medications has been dependent on the particular setting in which they practiced, on individual practice negotiations between physicians and nurses at the grassroots level, and on the level of trust that developed between them. Even before they had legal prescriptive authority, nurses safely and effectively administered drugs at various times and places throughout the century. Providing care in underserved areas of the country—in urban slums, in the remote hollows of Appalachia, and...



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