

BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING

ORDER OF ADOPTION

Amend Sections 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, and 1484, and adopt Sections 1483.1, 1483.2 and 1486 of Division 14 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations, to read as follows:

1480. Definitions.

- (a) “Nurse practitioner” means an advanced practice registered nurse who meets board education and certification requirements and possesses additional advanced practice educational preparation and skills in physical diagnosis, psycho-social assessment, and management of health-illness needs in primary care, and/or acute care.
- (b) “Primary care” means comprehensive and continuous care provided to patients, families, and the community. Primary care focuses on basic preventative care, health promotion, disease prevention, health maintenance, patient education and the diagnoses and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses in a variety of practice settings.
- (c) “Clinically competent” means the individual possesses and exercises the degree of learning, skill, care and experience ordinarily possessed and exercised by a certified nurse practitioner providing healthcare in the same nurse practitioner category. The clinical experience must be such that the nurse received intensive experience in performing the diagnostic and treatment procedures essential to the provision of primary care.
- (d) “Acute care” means restorative care provided by the nurse practitioner to patients with rapidly changing, unstable, chronic, complex acute and critical conditions in a variety of clinical practice settings.
- (e) “Category” means the population focused area of practice in which the certified nurse practitioner provides patient care.
- (f) “Advanced health assessment” means the knowledge of advanced processes of collecting and interpreting information regarding a patient’s health care status. Advanced health assessment provides the basis for differential diagnoses and treatment plans.
- (g) “Advanced pathophysiology” means the advanced knowledge and management of physiological disruptions that accompany a wide range of alterations in health.
- (h) “Advanced pharmacology” means the integration of the advanced knowledge of pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacodynamics content across the lifespan and prepares the certified nurse practitioner to initiate appropriate pharmacotherapeutics safely and effectively in the management of acute and chronic health conditions.
- (i) “Nurse practitioner curriculum” means a curriculum that consists of the graduate core; advanced practice registered nursing core, and nurse practitioner role and population-focused courses.
- (j) “Graduate core” means the foundational curriculum content deemed essential for all students pursuing a graduate degree in nursing.
- (k) “Advanced practice registered nursing core” means the essential broad-based curriculum required for all nurse practitioner students in the areas of advanced health assessment, advanced pathophysiology, and advanced pharmacology.
- (l) “California based nurse practitioner education program” means a board approved academic program, physically located in California that offers a graduate degree in nursing or graduate level certificate in nursing to qualified students and is accredited by a nursing organization recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council of Higher Education Accreditation.

- (m) “Clinical practice experience” means supervised direct patient care in the clinical setting that provides for the acquisition and application of advanced practice nursing knowledge, skills, and competencies.
- (n) “Direct supervision of students” means a clinical preceptor or a faculty member is physically present at the practice site. The clinical preceptor or faculty member retains the responsibility for patient care while overseeing the student.
- (o) “Lead nurse practitioner faculty educator” means the nurse practitioner faculty member of the nurse practitioner education program who has administrative responsibility for developing and implementing the curriculum in the nurse practitioner category.
- (p) “Major curriculum change” means a substantive change in a nurse practitioner education program curriculum, structure, content, method of delivery, or clinical hours.
- (q) “National Certification” means the certified nurse practitioner has passed an examination provided by a national certification organization accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies or the American Board of Nursing Specialties, as approved by the board.
- (r) “Nurse practitioner education program director” means the individual responsible for administration, implementation, and evaluation of the nurse practitioner education program and the achievement of the program outcomes in collaboration with program faculty.
- (s) “Non-California based nurse practitioner education program” means an academic program accredited by a nursing organization recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council of Higher Education Accreditation that offers a graduate degree in nursing or graduate level certificate in nursing to qualified students and does not have a physical location in California. Preparation at the graduate level must be comprehensive and focus on the clinical practice of providing direct care to individuals.
- (t) “Clinical field related to nursing” means a specialized field of clinical practice in one of the following categories of nurse practitioners as recognized by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF), which are: Family/Individual across the lifespan; Adult-gerontology, primary care; Adult-gerontology, acute care; Neonatal; Pediatrics, primary care; Pediatrics, acute care; Women’s health/gender-related; and Psychiatric-Mental Health across the lifespan.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 2715, 2725 and 2836, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2725.5, 2834, 2835.5 and 2836.1, Business and Professions Code.

1481. Categories of Nurse Practitioners.

- (a) Categories of nurse practitioners include:
 - (1) Family/individual across the lifespan;
 - (2) Adult-gerontology, primary care or acute care;
 - (3) Neonatal;
 - (4) Pediatrics, primary care or acute care;
 - (5) Women’s health/gender-related;
 - (6) Psychiatric-Mental Health across the lifespan.
- (b) A registered nurse who has been certified by the board as a nurse practitioner may use the title, “advanced practice registered nurse” and/or “certified nurse practitioner” and may place the letters APRN-CNP after his or her name or in combination with other letters or words that identify the category.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 2715 and 2836, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2834, 2835.5, 2836, 2836.1 and 2837, Business and Professions Code.

1482. Requirements for Certification as a Nurse Practitioner.

- (a) To obtain certification as a Nurse Practitioner, an applicant must hold a valid and active license as a registered nurse in California and possess a master's degree in nursing, a master's degree in a clinical field related to nursing, or a graduate degree in nursing and one of the following:
 - (1) Successful completion of a nurse practitioner education program approved by the Board;
 - (2) National certification as a nurse practitioner in one or more categories listed in Section 1481(a) from a national certification organization accredited by the National Commission on Certifying Agencies or the American Board of Nursing Specialties.
- (b) A nurse who has not completed an academically affiliated nurse practitioner education program shall provide evidence of having completed equivalent education and supervised clinical practice, as set forth in this article.
- (c) Graduates who have completed a nurse practitioner education program in a foreign country shall meet the requirements as set forth in this article. The applicant shall submit the required credential evaluation through a board-approved evaluation service evidencing education equivalent to a master's or doctoral degree in Nursing.

Note: Authority cited: Section 2715, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2835, 2835.5 and 2836, Business and Professions Code.

1483. Evaluation of Credentials.

- (a) An application for evaluation of a registered nurse's qualifications to be certified as a nurse practitioner shall be filed with the board by submitting the Application for Nurse Practitioner (NP) Certification (Rev. 03/2018), which is hereby incorporated by reference. A temporary Nurse Practitioner (NP) certificate shall be obtained by submitting the Application for Temporary Nurse Practitioner (NP) Certificate (Rev. 03/2018), which is hereby incorporated by reference. In order to furnish drugs or devices in California as a Nurse Practitioner, the certified nurse practitioner must be issued a Nurse Practitioner Furnishing Number by submitting the Nurse Practitioner Furnishing Number Application (Rev. 03/2018), which is hereby incorporated by reference, for approval. Submission of each application shall be accompanied by the fee prescribed in Section 1417 and such evidence, statements or documents as therein required by the board.
- (b) The Application for Nurse Practitioner (NP) Certification, the Application for Temporary Nurse Practitioner (NP) Certificate and the Nurse Practitioner Furnishing Number Application shall include submission of the name of the graduate nurse practitioner education program or post-graduate nurse practitioner education program.
- (c) The Application for Nurse Practitioner (NP) Certification shall include submission of an official sealed transcript with the date of graduation or post-graduate program completion, nurse practitioner category, credential conferred, and the specific courses taken to provide sufficient evidence the applicant has completed the required course work including the required number of supervised direct patient care clinical practice hours.

(d) A graduate from a board-approved nurse practitioner education program shall be considered a graduate of a nationally accredited program if the program held national nursing accreditation at the time the graduate completed the program. The program graduate is eligible to apply for nurse practitioner certification with the board regardless of the program's national nursing accreditation status at the time of submission of the application to the Board.

(e) The board shall notify the applicant in writing that the application is complete and accepted for filing or that the application is deficient and what specific information is required within 30 days from the receipt of an application. A decision on the evaluation of credentials shall be reached within 60 days from the filing of a completed application. The median, minimum, and maximum times for processing an application, from the receipt of the initial application to the final decision, shall be 42 days, 14 days, and one year, respectively, taking into account Section 1410.4(e) which provides for abandonment of incomplete applications after one year.

Note: Authority cited: Section 2715, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2815 and 2835.5, Business and Professions Code.

1483.1. Requirements for Nurse Practitioner Education Programs in California.

- (a) The California based nurse practitioner education program shall:
- (1) Provide evidence to the board that the nurse practitioner program is in an accredited academic institution located in California.
 - (2) Be an academic program accredited by a nursing organization recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council of Higher Education Accreditation that offers a graduate degree in Nursing or graduate level certificate in Nursing to qualified students.
 - (3) Provide the board with evidence of ongoing continuing nurse practitioner education program accreditation within 30 days of the program receiving this information from the national nursing accreditation body.
 - (4) Notify the board of changes in the program's institutional and national nursing accreditation status within 30 days.
- (b) The board shall grant the nurse practitioner education program initial and continuing approval when the board receives the required accreditation evidence from the program.
- (c) The board may change the approval status for a board-approved nurse practitioner education program at any time, if the board determines the program has not provided necessary compliance evidence to meet board regulations notwithstanding institutional and national nursing accreditation status and review schedules.

Note: Authority cited: Section 2715, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2785, 2786, 2786.5, 2786.6, 2788, 2798, 2815 and 2835.5, Business and Professions Code.

1483.2. Requirements for Reporting Nurse Practitioner Education Program Changes.

- (a) A board-approved nurse practitioner education program shall notify the board within thirty (30) days of any of the following changes:
- (1) A change of legal name or mailing address prior to making such changes. The program shall file its legal name and current mailing address with the board at its principal office and the notice shall provide both the old and the new name and address as applicable.
 - (2) A fiscal condition that adversely affects students enrolled in the nursing program.
 - (3) Substantive changes in the organizational structure affecting the nursing program.

(b) An approved nursing program shall not make a substantive change without prior board notification. Substantive changes include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Change in location;
- (2) Change in ownership;
- (3) Addition of a new campus or location;
- (4) Major curriculum change.

Note: Authority cited: Section 2715, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2715, 2785, 2786, 2786.5, 2786.6, 2788, 2798 and 2835.5, Business and Professions Code.

1484. Nurse Practitioner Education.

(a) The program of study preparing a nurse practitioner shall be approved by the board and be consistent with the nurse practitioner curriculum core competencies as specified by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties in “Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies Content” (2017), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

(b) The purpose of the nurse practitioner education program shall be to prepare a graduate nurse practitioner to provide competent primary care and/or acute care services in one or more of the categories. Written program materials shall reflect the mission, philosophy, purposes, and outcomes of the program and be available to students. Learning outcomes for the nurse practitioner education program shall be measurable and reflect assessment and evaluation of the theoretical knowledge and clinical competencies required of the graduate.

(c) Administration and organization of the nurse practitioner education program shall:

(1) Be taught in a college or university accredited by a nursing organization that is recognized by the United States Department of Education or the Council of Higher Education Accreditation that offers a graduate degree to qualified students.

(2) Prepare graduates for national certification as a certified nurse practitioner in one or more nurse practitioner category by the National Commission on Certifying Agencies or the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

(3) Have admission requirements and policies for withdrawal, dismissal and readmission that are clearly stated and available to the student.

(4) Inform applicants of the academic accreditation and board approval status of the program.

(5) Document the nurse practitioner role and the category of educational preparation on the program’s official transcript.

(6) Maintain a method for retrieval of records in the event of program closure.

(7) Have and implement a written total program evaluation plan.

(8) Have sufficient resources to achieve the program outcomes.

(d) Faculty.

(1) There shall be an adequate number of qualified faculty to develop and implement the program and to achieve the stated outcomes.

(2) Each faculty member shall demonstrate current competence in the area in which he or she teaches.

(3) There shall be a lead nurse practitioner faculty educator who meets the faculty qualifications.

(4) Faculty who teach in the nurse practitioner education program shall be educationally qualified and clinically competent in the same category as the theory and clinical areas taught. Faculty shall meet the following requirements:

- (A) Hold an active, valid California registered nurse license;
- (B) Have a Master’s degree or higher degree in nursing;

(C) Have at least two years of clinical experience as a nurse practitioner, certified nurse midwife, clinical nurse specialist, or certified registered nurse anesthetist within the last five (5) years of practice and consistent with the teaching responsibilities.

(5) Faculty teaching in clinical courses shall be current in clinical practice.

(6) Each faculty member shall assume responsibility and accountability for instruction, planning, and implementation of the curriculum, and evaluation of students and the program.

(7) Interdisciplinary faculty who teach non-clinical nurse practitioner nursing courses, such as but not limited to, pharmacology, pathophysiology, and physical assessment, shall have a valid and active California license issued by the appropriate licensing agency and an advanced graduate degree in the appropriate content areas.

(e) Director.

(1) The nurse practitioner education program director shall be responsible and accountable for the nurse practitioner education program within an accredited academic institution including the areas of education program, curriculum design, and resource acquisition, and shall meet the following requirements:

(A) Hold an active, valid California registered nurse license;

(B) Have a Master's or a higher degree in nursing;

(C) Have had one academic year of experience, within the last five (5) years, as an instructor in a school of professional nursing, or in a program preparing nurse practitioners; and

(D) Be certified by the board as a nurse practitioner.

(2) The director, if he or she meets the requirements for the certified nurse practitioner role, may fulfill the lead nurse practitioner faculty educator role and responsibilities.

(f) Clinical Preceptor.

(1) A clinical preceptor in the nurse practitioner education program shall:

(A) Hold an active valid, California license to practice his or her respective profession and demonstrate current clinical competence.

(B) Participate in teaching, supervising, and evaluating students, and shall be competent in the content and skills being taught to the students.

(2) Clinical preceptor functions and responsibilities shall be clearly documented in a written agreement between the agency, the preceptor, and the nurse practitioner education program including the clinical preceptor's role to teach, supervise and evaluate students in the nurse practitioner education program.

(3) A clinical preceptor is oriented to program and curriculum requirements, including responsibilities related to student supervision and evaluation;

(4) A clinical preceptor shall be evaluated by the program faculty at least every two (2) years.

(g) Students shall hold an active, valid California registered nurse license to participate in nurse practitioner education program clinical experiences.

(h) Nurse Practitioner Education Program Curriculum.

The nurse practitioner education program curriculum shall include all theoretical and clinical instruction that meet the standards set forth in this section and be consistent with national standards for graduate and nurse practitioner education, including nationally recognized core role and category competencies and be approved by the board.

(1) The program shall evaluate previous education and experience in health care for the purpose of granting credit for meeting program requirements.

(2) The curriculum shall provide broad educational preparation and include a graduate core, advance practice registered nursing core, the nurse practitioner core role competencies, and the competencies specific to the category.

- (3) The program shall prepare the graduate to be eligible to sit for a specific national nurse practitioner category certification examination consistent with educational preparation.
- (4) The curriculum plan shall have appropriate course sequencing and progression, which includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - (A) The advanced practice registered nursing core courses in advanced health assessment, advanced pharmacology, and advanced pathophysiology shall be completed prior to or concurrent with commencing clinical course work.
 - (B) Instruction and skills practice for diagnostic and treatment procedures shall occur prior to application in the clinical setting.
 - (C) Concurrent theory and clinical practice courses in the category shall emphasize the management of health-illness needs in primary and/or acute care.
 - (D) The supervised direct patient care precepted clinical experiences shall be under the supervision of a certified nurse practitioner.
- (5) The program shall meet the minimum of 500 clinical hours of supervised direct patient care experiences as specified in current nurse practitioner national education standards. Additional clinical hours required for preparation in more than one category shall be identified and documented in the curriculum plan for each category.
- (6) The nurse practitioner education curriculum shall include content related to California Nursing Practice Act, Business & Professions Code, Division 2, Chapter 6, Article 8, "Nurse Practitioners", and California Code of Regulations Title 16, Division 14, Article 7, "Standardized Procedure Guidelines" and Article 8, "Standards for Nurse Practitioners," including, but not limited to:
 - (A) Section 2835.7 of Business & Professions Code, "Additional authorized acts; implementation of standardized procedures";
 - (B) Section 2836.1 of Business & Professions Code, "Furnishing or ordering of drugs or devices."
- (7) The program may be full-time or part-time, and shall be consistent with standards as established by The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) in "Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies Content" (2017) or the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in "Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs" (2016), which is hereby incorporated by reference. The program must also include theory and supervised clinical practice.
- (8) The course of instruction program units and contact hours shall be calculated using the following formulas:
 - (A) One (1) hour of instruction in theory each week throughout a semester or quarter equals one (1) unit.
 - (B) Three (3) hours of clinical practice each week throughout a semester or quarter equals one (1) unit. Academic year means two semesters, where each semester is 15-18 weeks; or three quarters, where each quarter is 10-12 weeks.
- (9) Supervised clinical practice shall consist of at least 12 semester units or 18 quarter units.
- (10) The duration of clinical experience shall be sufficient for the student to demonstrate clinical competencies in the nurse practitioner category.
- (11) The nurse practitioner education program shall arrange for clinical instruction and supervision of the student.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 2715, 2835.7 and 2836, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2835, 2835.5, 2835.7, 2836, 2836.1, 2836.2, 2836.3 and 2837, Business and Professions Code.

1486. Requirements for Clinical Practice Experience for Nurse Practitioner Students Enrolled in Non-California based Nurse Practitioner Education Programs.

- (a) The Non-California based Nurse Practitioner education program requesting clinical placements for students in clinical practice settings in California shall:
 - (1) Obtain prior board approval;
 - (2) Ensure students have successfully completed prerequisite courses and are enrolled in the nurse practitioner education program;
 - (3) Secure clinical preceptors who meet board requirements;
 - (4) Ensure the clinical preceptorship experiences in the program meet all board requirements and national education standards and competencies for the nurse practitioner role and population as outlined by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) in “Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies Content” (2017) or the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in “Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs” (2016);
 - (5) A clinical preceptor in the nurse practitioner education program shall:
 - (a) Hold a valid and active California license to practice his or her respective profession and demonstrate current clinical competence.
 - (b) Participate in teaching, supervising, and evaluating students, and shall be competent in the content and skills being taught to the students.
 - (c) Be a health care provider qualified by education, licensure and clinical competence in the assigned nurse practitioner category to provide direct supervision of the clinical practice experiences for a nurse practitioner student.
 - (d) Be oriented to program and curriculum requirements, including responsibilities related to student supervision and evaluation;
 - (e) Be evaluated by the program faculty at least every two (2) years.

Clinical preceptor functions and responsibilities shall be clearly documented in a written agreement between the agency, the preceptor, and the nurse practitioner education program including the clinical preceptor’s role to teach, supervise and evaluate students in the nurse practitioner education program.

- (b) Students shall hold an active, valid California registered nurse license to participate in nurse practitioner education program clinical experiences.
- (c) The nurse practitioner education program shall demonstrate evidence that the curriculum includes content related to legal aspects of California certified nurse practitioner laws and regulations.
 - (1) The curriculum shall include content related to California Nursing Practice Act, Business & Professions Code, Division 2, Chapter 6, Article 8, “Nurse Practitioners” and California Code of Regulations Title 16, Division 14, Article 7, “Standardized Procedure Guidelines” and Article 8, “Standards for Nurse Practitioners”, including, but not limited to:
 - (A) Section 2835.7 of Business & Professions Code, “Additional authorized acts; implementation of standardized procedures”;
 - (B) Section 2836.1 of Business & Professions Code, “Furnishing or ordering of drugs or devices”.
- (d) The nurse practitioner education program shall notify the board of pertinent changes within 30 days.
- (e) The board may withdraw authorization for program clinical placements in California, at any time.

Note: Authority cited: Section 2715, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 2729, 2835, 2835.5 and 2836, Business and Professions Code.