PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE ISSUES FOR NEW GRADUATES

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California Action Coalition, Co-Lead: Scope of Practice
BRN Member 2005 – 2009
Director of Health Policy & Practice, CANP, 1999 - 2009
Review the California State regulatory requirements for NP practice.

Illustrate the use of a framework to develop standardized procedures.

Examine the importance of and describe the procedure for applying for a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and National Provider Identifier Number.

Differentiate national certification from other professional certifications and licensure.

Summarize the benefits and limitations of various methods of exam preparation, including self-study and a formal certification review course.

Differentiate the characteristics required for success in a first nurse practitioner position from a position more appropriate for a seasoned nurse practitioner.

Identify the preparation needed to transition from student to graduate nurse practitioner.
Statute

- California Business & Professions Code
- [http://www.rn.ca.gov/regulations/bpc.shtm](http://www.rn.ca.gov/regulations/bpc.shtm)
- Section 2725 Legislative Intent: Practice of Nursing
- Section 2725.5 “APRN defined”
- Article 8: Nurse Practitioners
  - Sections 2834 – 2837
    - Definitions, license requirement, credentials, authorized SPs, prescriptive authority
Regulation

- Title 16, California Code of Regulations
- Article 7. Standardized Procedure Guidelines
- Article 8. Standards for Nurse Practitioners
  - Definitions
  - Categories
  - Requirements
  - Evaluation of Credentials
  - Standards of Education
  - Scope of Practice
Practice Information

- BRN summaries of common practice questions

Nurse Practitioner Practice Information

- BRN statements clarifying statutes and regulations
  - Prescriptive Authority
  - Practice Authority
  - Use of Standardized Procedures
  - FAQs on NP practice authority
  - MA Supervision
  - National certification
  - Etc.
### Standardized Procedures / Process Protocols

- Legal mechanism by which registered nurses are authorized to perform acts within the medical scope of practice

- Exceptions:
  - When defined in the Nurse Practice Act as within the scope of practice of a RN
Specific to your educational preparation, population foci, and specialty

- Population Foci
  - Family / Lifespan
  - Adult / Gerontology Primary Care
  - Adult / Gerontology Acute Care
  - Pediatric Primary Care
  - Pediatric Acute Care
  - Neonatal
  - Women’s Health / Gender Specific
  - Psychiatric / Mental Health

- Specialty
  - Emergency, Oncology, Palliative Care, Occupational Health, etc.
SP must be focused to your educational preparation for which competency has been established and maintained.

Practicing outside the population foci / specialty

- Implications

Standardized Procedures are not required for functions within the RN scope as defined in the NPA:

- Physical & mental assessment
- Disease prevention & restorative measures
- Performance of skin tests & immunization techniques
- Withdrawal of blood
- Initiation emergency procedures
STANDARDIZED PROCEDURES

- Templates
    - Rebecca Zettler, RN, MS, FNP
    - [www.processprotocols.com](http://www.processprotocols.com)
    - $32.00 + S/H
  - *An Explanation of Standardized Procedure Requirements for Nurse Practitioner Practice*
    - California Board of Registered Nursing
**SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

- **What does “Scope of Practice” mean?**
    - “…[RN] who possesses additional preparation and skills in physical diagnosis, psycho-social assessment, and management of health-illness needs in primary care, who has been prepared in a program that …”

- **Do NPs have a defined scope of practice in California?**
- **Well defined by AANP, ANA and others**
Statutes & Regulations

Business & Professions Code Section 2836.1
- In accordance with a standardized procedure
- Restricted to educational preparation and clinical competency
- **Must** apply for a BRN-issued “Furnishing Number”
- **Must** register with the DEA for CS Authority
- Controlled Substance prescribing has additional SP requirements
- Formulary **required** as part of the SP
  - CBP Section 2836.1 (c) (1)
  - “...The standardized procedure or protocol covering the furnishing of drugs or devices shall specify ... which drugs or devices may be furnished or ordered...”

- [http://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/bp4018.pdf](http://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/bp4018.pdf)
**State Licensure & Certification**

- **Licensure: Registered Nurse**
  - Continue to maintain licensure bi-annually

- **Certification: Nurse Practitioner**
  - Where is the population / specialty?
  - Re-certification bi-annually with RN licensure

**Prescriptive Authority**

- Furnishing Number Application
- Re-certification bi-annually with RN licensure

**Timing**

**Questions**

- BRN: 916-322-3350  Ask for the “Advanced Practice Unit”
Purpose

- Verification of professional knowledge in a specialty and to maintain continued competency in the profession through an established recertification process.
  [http://www.aanpcert.org/ptistore/control/certs/purpose](http://www.aanpcert.org/ptistore/control/certs/purpose)

- “Certification is a process by which a nongovernmental agency validates, based upon predetermined standards, an individual nurse’s qualifications for practice in a defined functional or clinical area of nursing.”
  - “validates knowledge, skills, abilities and experience in areas beyond the scope of RN licensure.“
  - “A certification exam may be used as a proxy measure for APRN licensure or designation and therefore would not be voluntary, but a requirement for licensure.”
- Not required to practice in CA but STRONGLY recommended
  - Will change through legislation
- Required for Medicare & Medi-Cal (Medicaid) Reimbursement
- Required for most major health plan credentialing processes
- May be required by employers

**Organizations**
- American Nurses Credentialing Center
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners National Certification Program
- National Certification Corporation
- Pediatric Nursing Certification Board
- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certification Corporation
NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

- Require a MSN/MN/MS in Nursing, DNP, or Post-Master’s Certificate
  - Graduation or certificate from a CCNE- or ACEN-Accredited Program
  - Transcripts and copy of diploma or certificate required
- Unencumbered License from State Board of Registered Nursing
  - RN or APRN
# NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

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Exam Preparation

- Modalities
  - Online
  - In-Person
  - Review books / CD’s / Instructional Material

- Examination Companies
  - All have review material, web-based practice exam questions, and/or live, in-person review courses directed toward their exam

Exam Content

- Foundations for Advanced Practice
  - Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, Advanced Physical Assessment, Care of Diverse Populations, Clinical Prevention & Population Health

- Professional Practice
  - Leadership, Advocacy, Interprofessional Collaboration; QI & Safety; Evidence-Based Care; Informatics; Health Policy; Ethics & Legal Issues/Scope & Standards

- Independent Practice
  - HPDP; Illness & disease management; Diagnostic reasoning/critical thinking

Develop and follow a study plan
Exam Results

- ANCC (Pass/Fail) – 5-Year
  - 175 Questions + 25 additional; 4 hour limit
  - On-site testing results
  - Certification start date is the date of successful completion of exam
    - If application is pending degree conferral, exam result retained and certification affective on date documentation is received and eligibility met.

- Retesting
  - 60 days; no more than 3 x/12 months; + fee
Exam Results

AANP (Pass/Fail)
- 135 Questions + 15 additional; 3 hour limit
- Preliminary results (P/F) at test site
- Certification & official results mailed in 2-3 weeks following review of conferral of degree and eligibility.

Retesting
- Complete minimum of 15 CE focusing on areas of weakness; no more than 2 x/12 months; + fee
Personal Coverage vs. Employer Coverage

- Do you need both?
  - [http://www.nso.com/professional-liability-insurance/need-coverage.jsp](http://www.nso.com/professional-liability-insurance/need-coverage.jsp)
  - Employer coverage protects the employer
    - Conflict of interest
  - Employer coverage only covers what you do on the job
  - Employer coverage does not cover licensure protection

- Required to practice in CA?
- Required to prescribe CS II – V
- Some pharmacies will not fill any Rx unless your DEA number is available
- NPs are **not** authorized to prescribe Schedule I controlled substances, including
  - "Medical" Marijuana
- NPs are **not** authorized to prescribe methadone (CS II) for purposes of addiction management
  - Requires a specific DEA registration
  - "Mid-level providers" are not authorized to register this use
Registration: New Applications Form 224

Practitioner’s Manual

MLP Authorization by State

Fees: $731 x 3 Years; Fee-Exempt Registrants
Unique numerical identifiers for healthcare providers and health plans

- **Purpose**
- Regulations resulting from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)
- **Required** to apply for Medicare / Medicaid provider status
- **Required** for credentialing of all health plans
- **Required** on all electronic prescriptions
- No cost to register

**Apply**

QUESTIONS & CONTACT

- sjphilli@uci.edu