Professional Practice Issues for NP Graduates

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Former Member: California Board of Registered Nursing
Objectives

• 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.
APRN Statutes & Regulations

• Statute
  • California Business & Professions Code
  • [http://www.rn.ca.gov/regulations/bpc.shtml](http://www.rn.ca.gov/regulations/bpc.shtml)
  • 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
APRN Statutes & Regulations

• Regulation
  • Title 16, California Code of Regulations
  • http://www.rn.ca.gov/regulations/title16.shtml
  • Article 7. Standardized Procedure Guidelines
  • Article 8. Standards for Nurse Practitioners
    • Definitions
    • Categories
    • Requirements
    • Evaluation of Credentials
    • Standards of Education
    • Scope of Practice
APRN Statutes & Regulations

- 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.
Legal Mechanism to Practice

• **Standardized Procedures / Process Protocols**
  • Legal mechanism by which registered nurses are authorized to perform acts within the medical scope of practice
    • [Http://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/npr-b-20.pdf](http://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/npr-b-20.pdf)
  • Exceptions:
    • When defined in the Nurse Practice Act as within the scope of practice of a RN
Standardized Procedures

• Specific to your educational preparation, population foci, and specialty
  • Population Foci
    • Family / Lifespan
    • Adult / Gerontology (Primary Care/Acute Care)
    • Pediatric (Primary Care/Acute Care)
    • Neonatal
    • Women’s Health / Gender Specific
    • Psychiatric / Mental Health Across the Lifespan
  • Specialty
    • Emergency, Oncology, Palliative Care, Occupational Health, etc.
Standardized Procedures

• 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?
  • http://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/npr-b-19.pdf
    • “…[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
Prescriptive Authority

- Statutes & Regulations
  - Business & Professions Code Section 2836.1
    - In accordance w/ standardized procedure
    - Restricted: 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)
APRN Application & certification: CA

- **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”
National Board Certification

• Purpose
  • Verification of professional knowledge in a specialty
  • Maintain continued competency through an established recertification process.

  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...in areas beyond the scope of RN licensure.”
  • “…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.”

  http://www.aacn.org/WD/Certifications/Content/consumer-whatiscert.pcms?menu=Certification
National Board Certification

- **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

![ANCC Logo](image1.png)
![PNB Logo](image2.png)
![AACN Certificate Logo](image3.png)
![NCC Logo](image4.png)
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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**ANCC**
http://www.nursecredentialing.org/
Fees: ANA Members: $270  Nonmembers: $395

**AANPCP**
http://www.aanpcert.org/ptistore/control/index
Fees: AANP Members: $240  Nonmembers: $315

**NCC**
http://www.nccwebsite.org/
Fees: $325

**AACN Certification Corp.**
http://www.aacn.org/WD/certifications/content/acnp-c-ag-landing.content?menu=Certification
Fees: AACN Members: $245  Nonmembers: $350

**PNCB**
http://www.pncb.org/ptistore/control/exams/index
Fees: $385
National Board Certification

• 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
  • Exam Content
    • Foundations for Advanced Practice
      • Patho, Pharm, Physical Assessment, Diverse Populations, Prevention & Pop. Health
    • Professional Practice
      • Leadership, Advocacy, IPC; QI & Safety; EBC; Informatics; Policy; Ethics & Legal Issues; Scope & Standards
    • Independent Practice
      • HPDP; Illness & disease management; Diagnostic reasoning/critical thinking
  • Develop and follow a study plan
National Board Certification

• 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
National Board Certification

• Exam Results
  • AANP (Pass/Fail) – 5-Year
    • 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

• Application Process
  • Must complete program prior to sitting for exam
  • MSN/PMC NP applicants may apply 6 mo prior to completion of program
  • DNP NP applicants may apply 1 yr prior to completion of program
ANCC *Emergency NP* Certification via Portfolio Submission

- Must hold *licensure + national certification* in one of the following:
  - Acute Care
  - Adult
  - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care or Primary Care
  - Family
  - Pediatric Acute care or Primary Care

- *Masters, post-graduate certificate, or doctoral degree* in one of the above populations is required

- 2 years FT practice as a NP in the past 3 years is required
  - Minimum of 2,000 hours of advanced practice in the specialty area of emergency care in the past 3 years
National Board Certification

• ANCC *Emergency NP* Certification via Portfolio Submission
  • Fulfill *two additional* professional development categories:
    • Academic credits
    • Presentations
    • Publication or Research
    • Preceptor
    • Professional Service
  • Prepare *Portfolio*
    • Performance Evaluations & certifications
    • Practice Hours, Licensure
    • Professional Development Record
    • Employment and Career Information
Medical Malpractice Insurance

• Personal Coverage vs. Employer Coverage
  • Do you need both?
    • 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?
DEA Registration


• **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
DEA Registration


- Registration: New Applications Form 224
- Practitioner’s Manual
- MLP Authorization by State
- Fees: $731 x 3 Years; Fee-Exempt Registrants
CA Controlled Substance, Utilization, Review & Evaluation System (CURES) Registration

- **All licensed prescribers must register** for access to CURES 2.0 upon issuance of a DEA Registration Certificate
  - Registration: https://cures.doj.ca.gov/registration/confirmEmailPnDRegistration.xhtml
    - User Role: “Prescriber”
    - Issued by: “CA Department of Consumer Affairs”
    - Email Address required
  - CURES 2.0 FAQs: https://oag.ca.gov/cures/faqs
National Provider Identifier

• 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
  • https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.npistart
Questions & Contact

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