

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF
THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING**

LCB File No. R141-97

November 4, 1997

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1-4, NRS 632.120 and 632.237; §§5, 6, NRS 632.120, 632.430 and 632.440.

Section 1. NAC 632.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.020 “Advanced practitioner of nursing” means a registered professional nurse who has specialized skill, knowledge and experience obtained from an organized formal program of training and who is authorized in special conditions as [defined by] *set forth in* NAC 632.255 to 632.295, inclusive, to provide designated services in addition to those which a registered nurse is authorized to perform. The term includes a nurse midwife , [and] a nurse psychotherapist [.] , *a nurse practitioner and a clinical nurse specialist.*

Sec. 2. NAC 632.257 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.257 1. An applicant for a certificate of recognition as an advanced practitioner of nursing will be authorized to issue written prescriptions for poisons, dangerous drugs and devices only if he:

- (a) Is authorized to do so by the board; [and]
- (b) Submits an application for authority to issue written prescriptions for poisons, dangerous drugs or devices to the board [.] ; *and*
- (c) *Has successfully completed:*

(1) A program that complies with the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NAC 632.260 and includes an advanced course in pharmacotherapeutics; or

(2) A program of academic study that:

(I) Is approved by the board;

(II) Consists of at least 30 semester hours or an equivalent number of quarter hours in advanced pharmacotherapeutics; and

(III) Is completed within the 2 years immediately preceding the date the application is submitted to the board.

2. In addition to the information contained in the application for a certificate of recognition as an advanced practitioner of nursing, the application for authority to write a prescription for poisons, dangerous drugs and devices must include:

(a) Documentation of 1,000 hours of active practice in the immediately preceding 2 years as an advanced practitioner of nursing under a collaborating physician. The documentation must consist of a signed statement from the collaborating physician indicating to the board that the applicant is competent to prescribe those drugs listed in his protocols.

(b) If the applicant has prescribed poisons, dangerous drugs or devices in another state within the 2 years immediately preceding the application to write prescriptions in this state, a complete description of the requirements of that state, the poisons, dangerous drugs or devices he had authority to prescribe and any disciplinary action taken against him.

3. **[If]** *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, if* an advanced practitioner of nursing who is authorized to prescribe certain poisons, dangerous drugs and devices changes his medical specialty, he must submit an application to the board, which includes documentation of 1,000 hours of active practice in the new medical specialty as an advanced practitioner of nursing

under a collaborating physician, for authority to prescribe those poisons, dangerous drugs and devices which are currently within the standard of medical practice in that specialty.

4. *An advanced practitioner of nursing who:*

(a) *Is authorized to prescribe certain poisons, dangerous drugs and devices; and*

(b) *Changes his medical specialty to a medical specialty that is substantially similar to his former medical specialty,*

is not required to submit to the board the application required pursuant to subsection 3 if the board has authorized him to prescribe poisons, dangerous drugs and devices in the practice of his former medical specialty.

Sec. 3. NAC 632.260 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.260 1. An applicant for a certificate of recognition as an advanced practitioner of nursing must:

(a) Have completed a program designed to prepare an advanced practitioner of nursing which must **[be:**

(1) At] :

(1) Be at least 1 academic year in length, including at least 4 months of instruction in the classroom and clinical experience with a qualified physician or advanced practitioner of nursing;

[and

(2) Accredited]

(2) Be accredited or approved by an organization approved by the board to accredit or approve [such programs .] those programs;

(3) Include an advanced course in the following areas of study:

(I) The assessment of the health of patients;

(II) Pathophysiology; and

(III) The preparation for practice as an advanced practitioner of nursing;

(4) Include a concentration of courses in at least one medical specialty;

(5) Include clinical experience that requires the student to integrate the knowledge and skills that are taught in the program and emphasizes the medical specialty chosen by the student; and

(6) Include training in making clinical decisions including, but not limited to, diagnosing medical conditions and providing appropriate medical care.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, present to the board evidence of continuous practice in 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application as an advanced practitioner of nursing in the specialty for which certification is requested. The continuous practice must include 400 hours of practice per year. An applicant is not required to comply with the provisions of this paragraph if:

(1) Within a time before the date of his application which is specified by the board, he completed a program to prepare an advanced practitioner of nursing; or

(2) He presents evidence to the board that he will complete 1,000 hours of practice, without the privilege of writing prescriptions, under the supervision of a qualified physician or certified advanced practitioner of nursing, within a time specified by the board.

(c) If previously licensed or certified as an advanced practitioner of nursing in another state or jurisdiction, have maintained the licensure or certification in good standing and complied with the requirements for continuing education of that state or jurisdiction.

(d) If the applicant completes a program designed to prepare an advanced practitioner of nursing on or after July 1, 1992:

(1) Be certified as an advanced practitioner of nursing by a nationally recognized certification agency; or

(2) Hold a bachelor's degree in nursing from an accredited school or present to the board evidence of work towards completing the requirements for such a degree. An applicant who is working toward a bachelor's degree in nursing must enter into an agreement with the board that set forth the progress that must be made for completing the requirements for the degree.

(e) If the applicant completes a program designed to prepare an advanced practitioner of nursing on or after June 1, 2005, hold a master's degree in nursing or in a related health field approved by the board.

2. A student enrolled in a formal educational program for an advanced practitioner of nursing may perform the functions of an advanced practitioner of nursing, except writing prescriptions, if he does so under the supervision of a licensed physician or a certified advanced practitioner of nursing. The student:

(a) Must hold a [current] license as a registered nurse in [Nevada;] *this state*; and

(b) Shall notify the board in writing of the agreement concerning the practice between the student and the supervisor.

Sec. 4. NAC 632.295 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.295 1. The board may deny the issuance or renewal of, or suspend or revoke a certificate of recognition as an advanced practitioner of nursing after a hearing if it finds that an advanced practitioner of nursing has:

(a) Performed tasks beyond those permitted pursuant to this chapter or otherwise authorized by the board, or breached an approval agreement or a protocol;

(b) Been negligent in performing services for patients;

- (c) Impersonated a physician or permitted others to represent to the public that he is a physician;
- (d) Represented himself as able to practice without a collaborating physician;
- (e) Violated any provision or failed to meet any requirement of this chapter;
- (f) Made, or caused to be made, a false, fraudulent or forged statement or representation to procure or attempt to procure a certificate of recognition as an advanced practitioner of nursing;

[or]

(g) Violated any statute or regulation relating to prescribing, dispensing or administering any controlled substance, poison, dangerous drug or device [.] ; or

(h) Failed to perform nursing functions in a manner consistent with established or customary standards.

2. Any licensed practical nurse or registered nurse who:

(a) Uses the title “advanced practitioner of nursing” or any similar title or who acts as an advanced practitioner of nursing without having obtained a certificate pursuant to this section; or

(b) Writes prescriptions for poisons, dangerous drugs or devices or who dispenses a controlled substance without authority,

is guilty of unprofessional conduct.

Sec. 5. NAC 632.675 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.675 1. A program of nursing must have a competent and stable faculty. The majority of the members of the faculty must be full-time employees. The members of the faculty shall develop and evaluate the curriculum and the educational practices of the program.

2. **[In]** *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in courses relating to the care of patients, there must be at least one member of the faculty [to] for every eight students. The executive director of the board may, upon a showing of good cause, waive the requirement.*

3. *A program of nursing that uses the personnel of a clinical facility to supervise the clinical experience of students must require:*

(a) Each supervisor to have clinical expertise and to have demonstrated competence in the medical specialty of the students whom he will supervise;

(b) Each supervisor to be approved by the faculty of the program of nursing;

(c) The faculty of the program of nursing to provide to each supervisor an orientation concerning the roles and responsibilities of students, members of the faculty and supervisors;

(d) The faculty of the program of nursing to develop written objectives and provide a copy of those objectives to each supervisor, before the supervisor begins his supervision of the students.

4. *In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection 3, a program of nursing that uses the personnel of a clinical facility to supervise the clinical experience of students:*

(a) Must ensure that each supervisor is assigned not more than two students to supervise at the same time;

(b) Must designate a member of the faculty to serve as a liaison between the supervisor and each student who participates in the clinical experience;

(c) Must not use a supervisor to teach the initial acquisition of basic nursing skills;

(d) Must require that each supervisor be present in the clinical facility and available to the students at all times when the students provide nursing services to patients; and

(e) May use a supervisor to reinforce basic nursing skills or to teach nursing skills which build on the basic nursing skills that the students have acquired.

5. There must be at least one qualified administrator for each department or division of the program.

[4.] 6. If a university or college offers a program of nursing for more than one level of preparation, there must be one person who is responsible for each such level.

Sec. 6. NAC 632.695 is hereby amended to read as follows:

632.695 If the curriculum of a program of nursing is substantially revised, the administrator of the program shall submit the revision to the board for approval at least 4 months before the revision is effective. A substantial revision [**includes, but is not limited to:**] *means:*

1. A reorganization of the curriculum;
2. A revision of the length of the program; [**and**]
3. A revision of the objectives of the program [**. A substantial revision**]; *or*
4. *Any revision of the curriculum of a program that affects the ability of the program to comply with the requirements of this chapter or chapter 632 of NRS.*

The term does not include a change in the order in which courses must be taken.