

RULE

Department of Health and Hospitals Board of Nursing

Registered Nurses Advanced Practice
(LAC 46:XLVII.Chapters 37 and 45)

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Nursing, pursuant to the authority vested in the board by R.S. 37:918(12), and in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., has promulgated LAC 46:XLVII.4501-4517 and has repealed LAC 46:XLVII.3705-3713 to standardize the titles and requirements for licensure in Louisiana of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and in turn to impose the necessary fees to provide these services.

Title 46 PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS Part XLVII. Nurses Subpart 2. Registered Nurses

Chapter 37. Nursing Practice

§3705. Advanced Practitioner of Nursing

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Resources, Board of Nursing, LR 7:72 (March 1981), repealed by Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

§3707. Primary Nurse Associate

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Resources, Board of Nursing, LR 7:72 (March 1981), repealed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

§3709. Certified Nurse-Midwife

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Resources, Board of Nursing, LR 7:72 (March 1981), repealed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

§3711. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Resources, Board of Nursing, LR 7:72 (March 1981), repealed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996)

§3713. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Resources, Board of Nursing, LR 7:72 (March 1981), repealed by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

Chapter 45. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

§4501. Introduction

A. Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, specifically R.S. 37:911 et seq., delegated to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing the responsibility to authorize additional acts to be performed by registered nurses practicing in expanded roles and gave the board of nursing the power to set standards for nurses practicing in specialized roles. From 1981 to 1995, the board has recognized advanced practitioners of nursing as certified nurse-midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and primary nurse associates.

B. In 1995, the Louisiana Legislature amended R.S. 37:911 et seq., empowering the board of nursing to use the term advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) to license a registered nurse with advanced education as provided in R.S. 37:913.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

§4503. Titles

A nurse licensed as an APRN shall include, but not be limited to, the following categories:

1. certified nurse midwife as defined in the R.S. 37:913(1)(a);
2. certified registered nurse anesthetist as defined in the R.S. 37:913(1)(b);
3. clinical nurse specialist as defined in the R.S. 37:913(1)(c);

4. nurse practitioner as defined in the R.S. 37:913(1)(d).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

§4505. Definitions (Reserved)

§4507. Licensure as Advanced Practice Registered Nurse

A. Initial Licensure

1. After January 1, 1996, the applicant shall meet the following requirements:

a. holds a current, unencumbered, unrestricted and valid registered nurse license in Louisiana and there are no grounds for disciplinary proceedings, as stated in R.S. 37:921;

b. completion of a minimum of a master's degree with a concentration in the respective advanced practice nursing specialty from an accredited college or university. Exception to the master's degree will be granted to those applicants who provide documentation as requested by the board that the applicant completed or was continuously enrolled in a formalized post-basic-education program preparing for the advanced practice nursing specialty as approved by the board prior to December 31, 1995 as follows:

i. a program of studies offered through an institution of higher education which qualifies a graduate for a certification examination in the advanced practice specialty; or

ii. a program of studies accepted by a nationally recognized certifying body which is recognized by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing; or

iii. a program which is individually recognized by the Board of Nursing based on established criteria;

c. submission of a completed application on a form furnished by the board;

d. submission of evidence of national certification by a certification program approved by the board.

When specialty certification is not available, the individual will be required to meet commensurate requirements established by the board;

e. submission of a nonrefundable fee as specified in LAC 46:XLVII.3361.

2. Act 633 of 1995 empowers the board to license as an advanced practice registered nurse any nurse who was previously recognized by the board as an advanced practitioner of nursing on or before December 31, 1995. Requirements for such licensure, effective January 1, 1996, shall include:

a. holds a current, unencumbered, unrestricted and valid registered nurse license in Louisiana and there are no grounds for disciplinary proceedings, as stated in R.S. 37:921;

b. a completed application on a form furnished by the board;

c. the required nonrefundable fee as set forth in LAC 46:XLVII.3361;

d. prior to January 1, 1996, have been recognized by the board as an advanced practitioner of nursing.

3. If more than four years have elapsed since the applicant has practiced in the advanced practice registered nurse category, in addition to meeting the above requirements, the applicant shall:

a. apply for a six-month permit;

b. practice under the temporary permit and current practice standards set forth by the specific advanced practice category;

c. successfully complete the number of clinical practice hours as required by the recognized national certification boards for clinical practice, supervised by an advanced practice registered nurse preceptor approved by the board;

d. cause to have submitted a final evaluation by the preceptor verifying successful completion of the clinical practice requirements;

e. have a minimum of 500 hours of clinical practice when specialty certification is not available.

4. An APRN license shall be issued with an expiration date that coincides with the applicant's RN license.

B. Licensure by Endorsement. The board may issue a license by endorsement if the applicant has practiced under the laws of another state and if, in the opinion of the board, the applicant meets the requirements for licensure as an APRN in this jurisdiction.

1. If the applicant is applying from another jurisdiction that licenses the category of APRN for which the applicant is seeking licensure, the applicant shall submit:

a. a completed application on a form furnished by the board;

b. the required nonrefundable fee as set forth in LAC 46:XLVII.3361;

c. verification of current RN licensure in this jurisdiction or documentation that the applicant has applied for licensure as a RN and meets the requirements of this jurisdiction, and there are no grounds for disciplinary proceedings as stated in R.S. 37:921;

d. verification of licensure status directly from the jurisdiction of original licensure in the advanced practice category;

e. verification of current unencumbered license in the advanced practice category directly from the jurisdiction of current or most recent employment as an APRN;

- f. verification of educational requirements as stated in LAC 46:XLVII.4507.A.1.b;
- g. verification of current national certification in the respective specialty area as recognized by the board;
- h. documentation of meeting the requirements in LAC 46:XLVII.4515.

2. If the applicant is applying from a jurisdiction that does not license the APRN category for which the applicant is seeking licensure, the applicant shall submit 1.a ,b, c, f, g and h as stated above, plus:

- a. information regarding the applicant's qualifications for advanced practice directly from the state where the applicant first practiced in the APRN category.
- b. information regarding the applicant's qualifications for advanced practice directly from the board in the state where the applicant was last employed in the APRN category.

C. Temporary Permit: Initial Applicants

1. An APRN applicant who possesses a current RN license or a valid RN temporary permit, and has submitted a complete application, the required fee, and evidence of meeting all educational requirements, may be granted a temporary permit which allows for the applicant's practice to be supervised by a licensed APRN or another approved preceptor within the practice specialty if the applicant:

- a. is applying for initial licensure under LAC 46:XLVII.4507.A;
- b. has completed or is completing practice requirements for national professional certification for the advanced nursing practice category;
- c. has been accepted as a first-time candidate or is meeting the practice eligibility requirements for the national professional certification examination for the advanced nursing practice category as recognized by the board; or is awaiting certification results based upon initial application; and
- d. there are no grounds for disciplinary proceedings as stated in R.S. 37:921.

2. A nurse practicing under the temporary permit shall use the title advanced practice registered nurse applicant or APRN applicant.

3. The temporary permit shall expire upon receipt of initial certification examination results. A temporary permit is not renewable and is only awarded once.

4. Falsifying any records will lead to automatic suspension of license to practice as a registered nurse or disciplinary proceedings against the licensee in accordance with R.S. 37:921 and LAC 46:XLVII.3329.

D. Temporary Permit: Endorsement Applicants

1. An APRN who has filed an application for RN licensure by endorsement, and has been issued a RN temporary permit, may be issued a temporary permit to practice as an APRN, for a maximum of 90 days, if the applicant submits:

- a. a completed APRN application on a form furnished by the board;
- b. the required nonrefundable fee as set forth in LAC 46:XLVII.3361;
- c. evidence of meeting the educational and certification requirements specified in LAC 46:XLVII.4507.A.1.b;
- d. evidence of meeting the requirements of LAC 46:XLVII.4515.

2. If the RN license is issued before the applicant receives the results of initial certification examination the APRN temporary permit may be extended until receipt of initial certification results.

E. Renewal and Reinstatement of Licenses

1. Renewal. The date for renewal of licensure to practice as an APRN shall coincide with renewal of the applicant's RN license. Renewal of the APRN license is contingent upon renewal of the RN license and verification that there are no grounds for disciplinary proceedings as stated in R.S. 37:921. An applicant for renewal of an APRN license shall submit to the board:

- a. a completed application on a form furnished by the board;
- b. evidence of current certification/recertification, unless the APRN has been licensed by the board in accordance with R.S. 37:912(3)(4);
- c. evidence of meeting the requirements in LAC 46:XLVII.4515;
- d. the licensure renewal fee as specified in LAC 46:XLVII.3361.

2. Reinstatement of APRN Lapsed License. An APRN who has failed to renew licensure may apply for reinstatement by submitting to the board:

- a. evidence of current RN licensure;
- b. a completed application on a form furnished by the board;
- c. evidence of current certification/recertification by a nationally recognized certifying body;
- d. evidence of competence to return to practice as required in LAC 46:XLVII.4515;
- e. the required fee as specified in LAC 46:XLVII.3361.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

§4509. Educational Requirements (Reserved)

§4511. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Professional Certification Programs

A national certifying body which meets the following criteria shall be recognized by the board as mandated by R.S. 37:913(2):

1. credentials nationally;
2. does not require an applicant to be a member of any organization or entity;
3. documents the criteria for applicant eligibility to take an examination for certification and recertification;
4. requires a master's degree as the minimal educational level for certification or otherwise approved by the board;
5. utilizes an application process and credential review which includes documentation that the applicant's didactic education has concentrated in the advanced nursing practice category being certified, and that the applicant's clinical practice is in specialty area of certification;
6. uses an examination as a basis for certification in the advanced nursing practice category which meets the following criteria:
 - a. the examination is based upon job analysis studies conducted using standard methodologies acceptable to the testing community;
 - b. the examination represents entry-level practice based on standards in the advanced nursing practice category;
 - c. the examination represents the knowledge, skills (critical thinking and technical), and role functions essential for the delivery of safe and effective advanced nursing care to the client;
 - d. the examination content and its distribution are specified in a test plan, based on the job analysis study, that is available to examinees;
 - e. examination items are reviewed for content validity, cultural sensitivity, and correct scoring using an established mechanism, both before use and periodically;
 - f. examinations are evaluated for psychometric performance;
 - g. the passing standard is established using acceptable psychometric methods, and is re-evaluated periodically;
 - h. examination security is maintained through established procedures.
7. issues certification based upon passing the examination and meeting all other certification requirements;
8. provides for periodic recertification which includes review of qualifications and indicators of continued competence, including but not limited to continuing education or examination;
9. has mechanisms in place for communication to boards of nursing for timely verification of an individual's certification status, changes in certification status, and changes in the certification program, including qualifications, test plan, and scope of practice.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

§4513. Authorized Practice

A. Scope of Practice. An advanced practice registered nurse shall practice as set forth in R.S. 37:913(3)(a) and the standards set forth in these administrative rules. The patient services provided by an APRN shall be in accord with the educational preparation of that APRN.

B. Standards of Nursing Practice for the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. Standards of practice are essential for safe practice by the APRN and shall be in accordance with the published professional standards for each recognized category. The core standards for all categories of advanced practice registered nurses include, but are not limited to:

1. an APRN shall meet the standards of practice for registered nurses as defined in LAC 46:XLVII.3901-3913;
2. an APRN shall assess patients at an advanced level, identify abnormal conditions, analyze and synthesize data to establish a diagnosis, develop and implement treatment plans, and evaluate patient outcomes;
3. the APRN shall use advanced knowledge and skills in providing patients and health team members with guidance and teaching;
4. an APRN shall use critical thinking and independent decision-making at an advanced level, commensurate with the autonomy, authority, and responsibility of the practice category while working with patients and their families in meeting health care needs;
5. when collaborating with other health care providers, an APRN shall demonstrate knowledge of the statutes and rules governing advanced registered nursing practice, and function within the legal boundaries of the appropriate advanced registered nursing practice category;
6. an APRN shall demonstrate knowledge of and apply current nursing research findings relevant to the advanced nursing practice category;
7. an APRN shall make decisions to solve patient care problems and select treatment regimens in

collaboration with a licensed physician or dentist;

8. an APRN shall retain professional accountability for advanced practice nursing care when delegating nursing actions or interventions.

C. Prescriptive and Distributing Authority. An advanced practice registered nurse shall practice in a manner consistent with the definition as set forth in R.S. 37:913(3)(b) and with the provisions of R.S. 37:1031-1034.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

§4515. Continued Competence of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Continued competence requirements shall apply to:

1. a licensee seeking to renew an APRN license, as required in LAC 46:XLVII.4507.E.1;
2. a licensee seeking to reinstate an APRN license, as required in LAC 46:XLVII.4507.E.2;
3. an applicant for APRN licensure by endorsement, as required in LAC 46:XLVII.4507.B;
4. an applicant for APRN licensure after four years out of practice, as required in LAC 46:XLVII.4507.A.3.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

§4517. Additional Standards For Each Advanced Practice Nurse Category

A. Nurse Practitioner. In addition to the core standards described in LAC 46:XLVII.4513.B, an APRN in the category of nurse practitioner and area of the nursing specialty shall practice in the area of specialty in accord with standards established by a national professional nursing association and which have been reviewed and approved by the board.

B. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. In addition to the core standards described in LAC 46:XLVII.4513.B, an APRN in the category of certified registered nurse anesthetist shall practice in accord with standards established by a national professional nursing association and which have been reviewed and approved by the board.

C. Certified Nurse-Midwife. In addition to the core standards described in LAC 46:XLVII.4513.B, an APRN in the category of certified nurse-midwife shall practice in accord with standards established by a national professional nursing association and which have been reviewed and approved by the board.

D. Clinical Nurse Specialist. In addition to the core standards described in LAC 46:XLVII.4513.B, APRN in the category of clinical nurse specialist and area of the nursing specialty shall practice in the area of specialty in accord with standards established by a national professional nursing association and which have been reviewed and approved by the board.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:918.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Nursing, LR 22: (April 1996).

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