



Board of Registration in Nursing

Mission Statement

The mission of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing is to lead in the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth through the fair and consistent application of the statutes and regulations governing nursing practice and education

Goals of the Board of Nursing

- Ensure that persons licensed as nurses are qualified to provide the citizens of the Commonwealth with safe & effective nursing care.
- Lead in state government and the public arena in the promotion of safe & effective nursing practice.

Selected Board of Nursing Statutes and Regulations

Massachusetts Nurse Practice Act

M.G.L. Chapter 13, sections 13 - 15D

Creation, and legal authority, of the Board of Nursing to administer and enforce the NPA, and regulate nursing practice and education

M.G.L. Chapter 112, sections 74 - 81C

Legal authority and requirements related to nursing licensure and practice, and the Nursing Board's enforcement responsibilities

Functions of the Board

- Makes, adopts, amends, repeals and enforces regulations
- Issues advisory rulings and opinions to guide practice and education
- Approves and monitors nursing education programs
- Issues nursing licenses to qualified individuals
- Authorizes nurses to practice in advanced roles

Functions (con't)

- License maintenance (initial, renewal, reciprocal, verification, fee collection)
- Investigates and takes action against complaints
- Audits competency
- Administers SARP Program
- Consults and conducts forums, studies and research on practice, education, patient safety and related matters

Board Regulations Governing Nursing

244 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 3.00–9.00

3.00: RN and LPN Scope of Practice,
Functions, and Delegation

4.00: Advance Practice Nursing

5.00: Continuing Education

6.00: Schools of Nursing

7.00: Action on Complaints

8.00: Licensure Requirements

9.00: Standards of Conduct



Preparing for Practice as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN): Board Authorization

Prohibition of Practice

- **Board authorization to practice must be obtained prior to:**
 - Engaging in practice as an Advance Practice Nurse (APRN)
 - Using any APRN credentials
 - Identifying self as APRN by signs, name tag, stationary and similar devices

APRN Authorization

Written authorization granted by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing to a Registered Nurse, under authority of M.G.L. C. 112, s. 80B to engage in advanced practice nursing as defined in 244 CMR 4.00

Becoming Authorized to Practice as an APRN



- Graduation from formal education program which has as its objective the preparation of nurses to practice in a defined advanced practice role
- Current, unencumbered MA Registered Nurse (RN) licensure
- Determination of Good Moral Character (GMC)
- Attainment of certification from a nationally recognized accrediting body approved by the Board in a category recognized in regulation
- Payment of fees

1. Copy of the applicant's valid Massachusetts Registered Nurse license. APRNs seeking reciprocity must apply for and receive Massachusetts RN licensure prior to applying for APRN authorization.
2. Copy of the applicant's current advanced practice certification by a national certifying organization.
3. Applicant's official transcript contained in a sealed envelope sent directly to PCS by the APRN nursing education program the applicant graduated from.
4. If the applicant is licensed as a nurse (LPN and/or RN) in any other state or jurisdiction, verification of licensure status must be completed.
5. If the applicant is authorized to practice as an APRN in any other state or jurisdiction, official verification of APRN status from each state or jurisdiction, or both. For each state or jurisdiction:
6. If you answer "yes" to any questions related to the good moral character licensure requirement, consult the Board's *Good Moral Character Licensure Requirement Information Sheet* before submitting application. The Board must determine your compliance with this requirement before authorizing APRN practice.

Educational Preparation

- Satisfactory completion of a formal educational program which has as its objective the preparation of registered nurses to practice in the advanced role
- Program must be Board recognized
- Advanced physical assessment
- Advanced pathophysiology
- Advanced pharmacology (minimum 24 hours beyond generic RN education)

RN license



- Active, unencumbered
- Has met good moral character requirements

Application Process

- Obtain instructions and application from Professional Credentialing Services (PCS)
- www.pcshq.com
- **Read, complete in entirety, follow directions** to avoid delay



Each application for initial, additional or reciprocal authorization must be received by PCS, fully completed and legible, with required documentation, before it will be reviewed.

Good Moral Character

Licensed nurses in Massachusetts who fulfill the *Good Moral Character* requirement are honest, trustworthy, accountable, reliable, have integrity, and are able to distinguish between right and wrong. They also avoid aggression to self and others, and avoid injustice and deceit.

Application

The Board of Registration in Nursing requires all applicants to answer six (6) questions related to criminal convictions and/or disciplinary actions by a licensure or certification body.



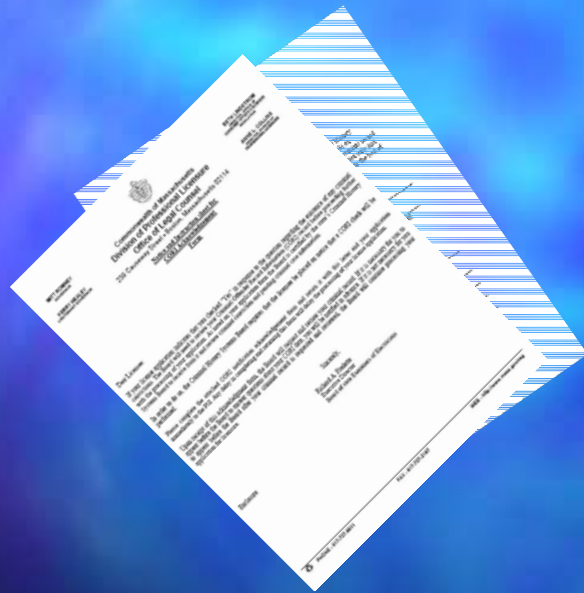
Good Moral Character Questions

- 1. Has any disciplinary action ever been taken against you by a professional and/or trade licensing/certification board located in the United States or any country/foreign jurisdiction, including removal from a long-term care nurse aide registry program?
- 2. Are you the subject of pending disciplinary action by a professional and/or trade licensing/certification board located in the United States or any country/foreign jurisdiction?
- 3. Have you ever applied for, and been denied, a professional and/or trade license/certification in the United States or any other country/foreign jurisdiction?
- 4. Have you ever surrendered or resigned a professional and/or trade license/certificate in the United States or any other country/foreign jurisdiction?
- 5. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor in the United States or any other country/foreign jurisdiction?
- 6. Are you the subject of any pending or open criminal case (s) or investigation (s), (including for any felony or misdemeanor) in a jurisdiction in the United States or any country/foreign jurisdiction?

Definition of Criminal Conviction

- A verdict or finding of guilty.
- A plea of guilty.
- A plea of nolo contendere (no contest).
- Any other plea treated by the court as a guilty plea regardless of the jurisdiction in which the conviction was entered.

Criminal Offender Record Information



The applicant may be required to complete a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) form, which is a criminal background check, based on the responses to the six (6) *Good Moral Character* questions on the licensure application.

www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn

Click on “Licensing”, then “Good Moral Character Licensure”, then “Good Moral Character Information Sheet”

All Criminal Cases and Disciplinary Actions Must be Closed

- The applicant provides documentation satisfactory to the Board that:
 - all court-ordered requirements and that all criminal matters involving the applicant have been closed; and
 - All requirements imposed by a licensure/certification body in connection with the disciplinary action involving the applicant have been met.

Truthfulness on the Application



- It is extremely important to answer truthfully to all questions on the application for authorization and the CORI form.
- Failure to be truthful will result in exclusion from practice for five (5) years.

Criminal Convictions

- Conviction for certain crimes will result in mandatory permanent exclusion from becoming licensed as a nurse in Massachusetts.
- In general, conduct underlying any violent crime against any person or persons that exhibits intentional or deliberate disregard of human life is considered grounds for exclusion from licensure.
- In addition, if you have been convicted of a crime within the last 5 years (excluding those that result in permanent exclusion), you may be subject to mandatory *temporary* exclusion from licensure.

Nursing Board's Website

The screenshot shows the website for the Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services. The page is titled "Nursing" and is part of the "Occupational and Professional" section. The main content area contains a list of links and information:

- **Welcome to the Division of Health Profession Licensure's UPDATED Website**
The EOHHS Portal contains centralized, easy-to-navigate information across all EOHHS agencies. We are making these changes to help all visitors to our website locate information about licensed health care professionals in new and improved ways
- **About the Board of Registration in Nursing**
- **Statutes, Rules and Regulations**
Includes policies.
- **Licensing**
- **Nursing Education**
- **Nursing Practice**

On the right side of the page, there is a search bar and two expandable menu sections:

- News & Updates**
 - [Revised Laser Hair Advisory Ruling](#)
 - [Nursing Spectrum Magazine](#)
 - [Imposter Alerts](#)
 - [The Board Revises Application](#)
 - [The Board Hears Presentation on Human-Factor Analysis](#)
- Online Services**
 - [Online Change of Address](#)
 - [Check a License](#)
 - [E-Mail the Board](#)

A complete list of specific crimes requiring mandatory permanent exclusion from licensure is available at the Board of Registration website

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn>

Click on "Licensing", then "Good Moral Character"

Right to Review



- If you are denied license based on the Good Moral Character requirement, you have the right to review your denial.
- You will be required to provide documentation which can reasonably substantiate the existence of specific areas of factual dispute relevant to the issue.

Authorization Documentation

- Once authorized, the Board will send you written notification of your authorization approval
- You will receive a wallet sized document soon after indicating your APRN Board approved category
- Your Board authorization will appear on the Board's website under "Check a License" and is considered the most "up to date" information

Wallet size documentation

- You will receive two wallet sized documents when you renew
 - Your RN license
 - Your APRN authorization

Authorization Renewal Requirements

- Due on your birthday in the even numbered years
- Current MA registered nurse licensure
- Determination of GMC
- Current certification from a nationally recognized accrediting body approved by the Board
- Signature attesting to compliance with Board laws and regulations. **READ WHAT YOU SIGN!!**
- Payment of fees

244 CMR 9.04 – Specific to APRN

- (1) Practice with competence only in authorized APRN category (RN/NP, RN/PC, RN/NA, RN/NM)
- (2) Do not practice without Board authorization
- (3) Authorized prescribers comply with all federal and state laws and regulations
- (4) Maintain current certification
- (5) Fully disclose risks/benefits of treatment with documentation
- (6) provide access to information regarding charges and payment for services

244 CMR 7.00

<http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/regs/244cmr007.pdf>

Action on Complaints

Non-Disciplinary – not public record

- Dismissal
- Stayed Probation
- Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP)

244 CMR 7.00 - continued

Disciplinary – Remains as public record

- Reprimand
- Probation
- Suspension
- Stayed Suspension
- Surrender
- Revocation



Competence: A Legal Requirement for Advanced Registered Nursing Scope of Practice

Competence



244 CMR 9.02 defines Competence as:

“The application of knowledge and the use of affective, cognitive, and psychomotor skills required for the role of a nurse licensed by the Board and for the delivery of safe nursing care in accordance with accepted standards of practice.”

APRN Competence



- Includes only those areas of practice for which the APRN has formal, advanced nursing education and documented competency
- Certification is one measure of competence
- Additional education through experience and by principles of continuing education is another measure of competence

Competence



Involves Responsibility:

Responsible to self, patient, employer, profession (for example, following policies and procedures)

and Accountability:

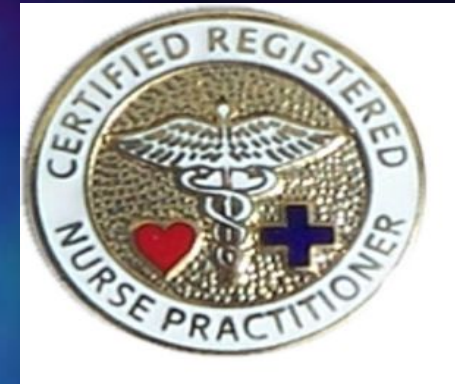
Accountable to the Board, employer, profession (i.e. adhering to the regulations)

Continued Competence

The application of knowledge and the interpersonal, decision-making, and psychomotor skill expected for nurse's practice role, within the context of public health, welfare and safety.

Ref: National Council of State Boards of Nursing, 1996

Certification



- In order to maintain APRN authorization and to engage in advanced practice nursing, an APRN must hold current professional advanced practice certification and must submit documentation satisfactory to the Board of current certification with each authorization renewal.

Certification



- Must have completed requirements and attained initial and continued certification from Board approved, national, professional certifying organization
- Certification in Board recognized category in regulations at 244 CMR 4.00

Board Requirement for Certification in Category of Practice

- The Board recognizes four APRN categories:
 - RN/NP (Nurse Practitioner)
 - RN/NM (Nurse Midwife)
 - RN/PC (Psychiatric Nurse Mental Health Clinical Specialist)
 - RN/NA (Nurse Anesthetist)

Board Approved Professional Certifying Organizations RN/NP



- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
www.aanpcertification.org
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
www.nursecredentialing.org
- National Certification Council (NCC)
www.nccwebsite.org
- Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)
www.pncb.org
- American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) Certification Corporation
www.aacn.org

Professional Certifying Organizations RN/PC



American Nurses Credentialing Center
(ANCC)

www.nursecredentialing.org

Professional Certifying Organizations RN/NA

Council on Certification and Recertification of
Nurse Anesthetists
(CCRNA)

aka American Association of Nurse
Anesthetists
(AANA)

www.aana.com



Professional Certifying Organizations RN/NM

American Midwifery Certification Board
(AMCB)

aka American College of Nurse Midwives
(ACNM)

www.amcbmidwife.org



Certification Renewal

- A requirement for Board authorization
- Certification must be current to continue authorization
- *You are responsible* to fulfill the requirements of the certifying organization
- *You are responsible* to know when your certification renewal is due

Category vs. Specialization


- Board authorizes APRN practice by category, not by specialization within the category
- Category competency determines:
 - Ages of population served
 - Characteristics of population served
 - Medical conditions of population served
 - Activities performed

Demonstration of Competency

- Certification (Mandated by Regulation)
- Experience
 - On the job training
- On-going education
 - Attendance at educational session
 - Formal course work

Continuing Education to maintain certification

- Additional requirements for continuing education through your professional certifying organization
- Your responsibility to keep track of professional requirements



Guidelines: Preparing for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Prescriptive Practice

Guidelines

244 CMR 4.22 & 4.23



- All APRN's must practice in accordance with written guidelines
 - Collaborating physician expert in nurse's area of practice
 - Guidelines must be approved by institutional medical/nursing administration or Board of Nursing

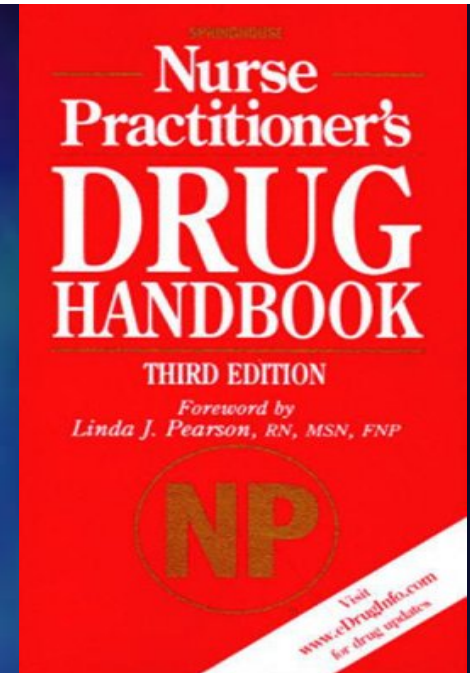
<http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/regis/244cmr004.pdf>

Guidelines

- Describe the nature and scope of practice
- Describe circumstances in which physician consultation is required
- Describe use of established procedures for treatment of common medical conditions
- Include provisions for managing emergencies

Guidelines that include Prescriptive Practice

- Define a mechanism to review practice, including documentation every 3 months with supervising physician
- Indicate frequency of review of initial prescriptions
- Protocols for initiation of IV therapy and Schedule II drugs
- Mechanism to review Schedule II prescriptions within 96 hours of initiation with supervising physician or designee



Guidelines



- Review and sign every two years
- Provide copy to any person upon request
- If requesting Board review, send original signed and dated guidelines to Nursing Practice Coordinator
- Audit tool available on Board's website

<http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dph/quality/boards/apnaudit.pdf>

Prescriptive Practice



- Requirements
 - Board authorization as APRN
 - A minimum of 24 contact hours in pharmacotherapeutics beyond those acquired in generic nursing education program
 - Valid registration(s) to issue written or oral prescriptions or medication orders from Massachusetts Department of Public Health for schedule VI and from US Drug Enforcement Administration for schedule II – V

M.G.L. 112, s. 80E, 80G, 80H

- Legal power for APRN to issue written prescriptions and order tests and therapeutics pursuant to guidelines mutually developed and agreed upon by the nurse and the supervising physician in accordance with regulations promulgated jointly by the board and the board of registration in medicine
- A prescription made by an APRN must include the name of the physician with whom such nurse has developed and signed mutually agreed upon guidelines

M.G.L. 94C – Controlled Substances Act



- “Controlled substance” is defined as a drug, substance, or immediate precursor in any schedule or class

- Massachusetts statute

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/gl-94c-toc.htm>

New Requirement 1-1-11

- As of January 1, 2011, pursuant to MGL 94C, Section 18(e), all prescribers, upon initial application for MA Controlled Substance Registration (MCSR) and subsequently during each APRN license renewal period, must complete education relative to:
 - effective pain management,
 - identification of patients at high risk for substance abuse, and
 - counseling patients about the side effects, addictive nature and proper storage and disposal of prescription medications.
- Please note that MGL 94C, Section 18(e) does not specify a minimum number of contact hours to comply with this education requirement. All continuing education offerings must be consistent with the Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) requirements at 244 CMR 5.00: *Continuing Education* and, for this specific requirement, the Board Advisory Ruling #0901: *Management of Pain*.

Read What You Sign

By signing the MCSR form and by your signature on your license renewal form, you attest under penalties of perjury that you have complied with state tax and child support laws, mandatory reporting laws, and all Board laws and regulations, including continuing education requirements.

Legal Documentation



- In all records required by federal and state laws and regulations and accepted standards of nursing practice
 - Must be accurate, complete, legible
 - Sign name and initials as they appear on your license (RN/NP, RN/PC, RN/NA, RN/NM)
- May use certification credentials on business cards, stationary, advertisements, and other similar correspondence

Primary Source Verification

1. APRNs seeking reciprocity must apply for and receive Massachusetts RN licensure prior to applying for APRN authorization.
2. Copy of the applicant's current advanced practice certification by a national certifying organization.
3. Applicant's official transcript contained in a sealed envelope sent directly to PCS by the APRN nursing education program the applicant graduated from.
4. If the applicant is licensed as a nurse (LPN and/or RN) in any other state or jurisdiction, verification of licensure status must be completed.
5. If the applicant is authorized to practice as an APRN in any other state or jurisdiction, official verification of APRN status from each state or jurisdiction.
6. If applicant answers "yes" to any questions related to the good moral character licensure requirement, Board must determine compliance with this requirement before authorizing APRN practice.

Keep on file.....

- Board authorization for APRN practice (web verification is most up to date)
- Professional Certification
- MCSR
- DEA
- Signed, approved guidelines

Board of Registration in Nursing
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Boston, MA 02114

On-Line Renewal

www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn

(go to *On Line Services* in right margin)