

Official Nebraska Government Website

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICES

NEBRASKA  
Good Life. Great Mission.

Helping People Live Better Lives

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

CHILDREN &amp; FAMILY SERVICES

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

MEDICAID &amp; LONG-TERM CARE

PUBLIC HEALTH

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## Nursing

### Notice of Proposed NLC Rulemaking

### Employer Webinars on the NEW Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC)

[Update on new LPN law](#) [Locations for IV Therapy class NEW!](#)

### Nursing licensure credentials issued by Nebraska

#### Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

Licensure follows nine months to one year of education and successful completion of the National Council Licensure Examination Practical Nurse (NCLEX-PN). The LPN provides direct patient care services.

#### Registered Nurse (RN)

Registered Nurses have completed two to four years of education at a college or university, and passed the NCLEX-RN in order to qualify for licensure. The RN plans and directs the plan of nursing care for patients.


#### Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)

An APRN is a registered nurse (RN) with a master's or doctoral degree and national board certification to qualify for licensure. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses apply advanced nursing principals in the provision of patient care services to specific patient populations.

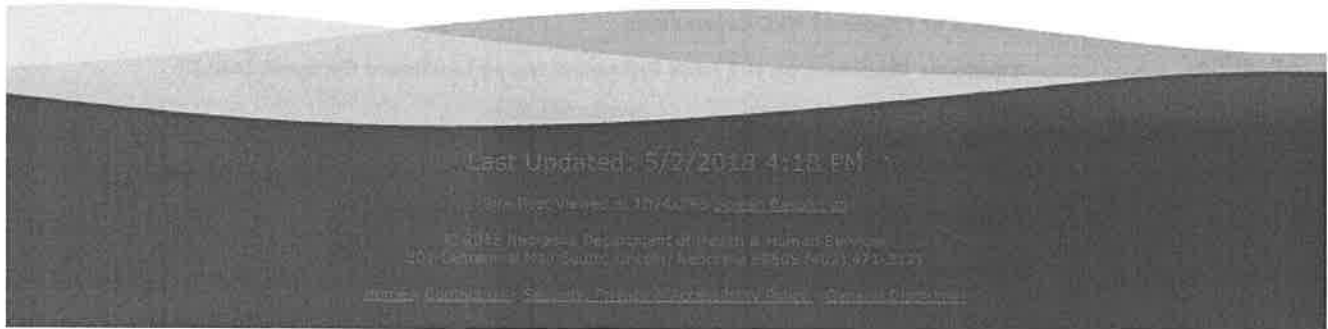
- **Certified Nurse Midwife (APRN-CNM):** Practice occurs under the provisions of a practice agreement with a physician including attendance at childbirth; prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care; normal obstetrical and gynecological services for women; and care for the newborn immediately following birth.
- **Clinical Nurse Specialist (APRN-CNS):** Practice includes health promotion, health supervision, illness prevention, and disease management, including assessing patients, synthesizing and analyzing data. The CNS conducts and applies research, advocates, serves as an agent of change, engages in systems management, and assesses and intervenes in complex health care problems most commonly for chronically ill and acute care patient populations.
- **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (APRN-CRNA):** Practice is the performance and assistance with any act involving the administration of medication and monitoring of the patient for anesthesia and alleviation of pain.
- **Nurse Practitioner (APRN-NP):** Practice means health promotion, health supervision illness prevention and diagnosis, treatment, and management of common health problems and acute and chronic conditions. Nurse practitioners assess patients and prescribe diagnostic tests, medication and treatments in primary care or specialty practice.

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**Nursing**

**Scope of Nursing Practice Decision-Making Framework**

**Scope of Practice**

In the practice of nursing, professional issues and practice questions arise that require the nurse to apply education, experience and professional judgment and to be legally responsible and accountable for the outcome(s). The role of the Board of Nursing is to establish minimum standards for education, licensure and practice and to provide information to practicing nurses. The Licensure Unit ensures that standards have been met prior to issuance of a license; however, the Licensure Unit cannot and should not make scope of practice decisions for its licensees.

**Decision-Making Framework**

In an effort to ensure safe, competent nursing services to the public, as well as to educate and provide direction to nurses to facilitate clinical decision-making in determining legal scope of practice, the Nebraska Board of Nursing adopted a Decision-Making Model for Determining RN/LPN Scope of Practice on April 14, 2016. The model was designed to be utilized in conjunction with applicable Nebraska nursing laws and regulations in a given practice situation.


Recognizing the evolution of nursing practice and thought regarding scope of practice decisions, the APRN Board and Board of Nursing adopted a shared next generation model in 2017. The Scope of Nursing Practice Decision-Making Framework was developed by the Tri-Council for Nursing in collaboration with the National Council of the State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). The framework was devised to include all licensed nurses at all experience levels in all practice settings practicing in a variety of roles.

The decision to provide any nursing care should be based upon self-assessment of competency, following an assessment of the client and environment. A licensed nurse is accountable to be competent for all nursing care that he/she provides. Competence means the ability of the nurse to apply interpersonal, technical and decision-making skills at the level of knowledge consistent with the prevailing standard for the nursing activity being applied. Accountability also includes acknowledgment of personal limitations in knowledge and skills and communication of the need for specialized instruction prior to providing any nursing activity.

 **Scope of Practice Decision Making Framework**

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# Scope of Nursing Practice Decision-making Framework

Approved by the Nebraska Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses on April 21, 2017

Approved by the Nebraska Board of Nursing on July 13, 2017

Identify, describe, or clarify the activity, intervention, or role under consideration.

Is the activity, intervention, or role prohibited by the NPA and rules/regulations or any other applicable laws, rules/regulations, or accreditation standards or professional nursing scope and standards?

YES

STOP

NO

Is performing the activity, intervention, or role consistent with evidence-based nursing and health care literature?

NO

STOP

YES

Are there practice setting policies and procedures in place to support performing the activity, intervention, or role?

NO

STOP

YES

Has the nurse completed the necessary education to safely perform the activity, intervention, or role?

NO

STOP

YES

Is there documented evidence of the nurse's current competence (knowledge, skills, abilities, and judgments) to safely perform the activity, intervention, or role?

NO

STOP

YES

Does the nurse have the appropriate resources to perform the activity, intervention, or role in the practice setting?

NO

STOP

YES

Would a reasonable and prudent nurse perform the activity, intervention, or role in this setting?

NO

STOP

YES

Is the nurse prepared to accept accountability for the activity, intervention, or role and for the related outcomes?

NO

STOP

YES

The nurse may perform the activity, intervention, or role to acceptable and prevailing standards of safe nursing care

Used with permission from the *Journal of Nursing Regulation*

Ballard, K., Haagenson, D., Christiansen, L., Damgaard, G., Halstead, J.A., Jason, R.R.,... Alexander, M. (2016). Scope of nursing practice decision-making framework. *Journal of Nursing Regulation* 7(3); 19-21.

