

Board of Registered Nursing

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What is the Board of Registered Nursing

- ▶ The Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) is a state governmental agency established by law to protect the public by regulating the practice of registered nurses.
- ▶ The BRN is responsible for implementation and enforcement of the California Nursing Practice Act which contains laws related to nursing education, licensure, practice, and discipline.
- ▶ The California Nursing Practice Act also created a nine-member Board which serves as the BRN's decision-making body.

Full Board

- ▶ The nine-member Board is composed of four members of the public and five registered nurses.
- ▶ The five registered nurses include two direct-patient care nurses, an advanced practice nurse, a nurse administrator, and a nurse educator.
- ▶ Seven of the members are appointed by the Governor and two of the public members are appointed by the Legislature.
- ▶ Each member serves a four-year term and can be re-appointed, although the member cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

Subcommittees

The Board has subcommittees comprised of two or more Board members that meet at least four times a year. The current subcommittees are as follows:

- ▶ Administrative Committee
- ▶ Enforcement, Investigation, and Intervention Committee
- ▶ Education/Licensing Committee
- ▶ Legislative Committee
- ▶ Nursing Practice Committee

Advisory Committees

The Board has advisory committees comprised of stakeholders and subject matters experts that meet as needed to complete specific tasks. The current advisory committees are as follows:

- ▶ Nurse Practitioner Advisory Committee
- ▶ Nurse-Midwifery Advisory Committee
- ▶ Clinical Nurse Specialist Advisory Committee
- ▶ Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Advisory Committee
- ▶ Nursing Education and Workforce Advisory Committee

AB 1896 (Chesbro), **Chapter 119, Statutes of 2012**

- ▶ Under federal law, licensed health professionals employed by a tribal health program are required to be exempt, if licensed in any state, from the licensing requirements of the state in which the tribal health program performs specified services.
- ▶ A tribal health program is defined as an Indian tribe or tribal organization that operates any health program, service, function, activity, or facility funded, in whole or part, by the Indian Health Service.
- ▶ AB 1896 (Chesbro), Chapter 119, Statutes of 2012, codified federal requirements by updating our Business and Profession Code to state that a health care practitioner in any other state and employed by a tribal health program is exempt from any state licensing requirement with respect to acts authorized under the person's license where the tribe health program performs specific services.

Main Areas of BRN Oversight

- Nursing Education
- Nursing Licensure
- Nursing Scope of Practice
- Nursing Discipline

Nursing Education

- ▶ State law charges the BRN with preparing and maintaining a list of approved schools of nursing whose graduates will be eligible to apply for a license to practice nursing in California.
- ▶ The BRN is required to provide approval and oversight of prelicensure nursing programs and some advanced practice nursing programs through its program approval process.
- ▶ The approval process ensures that the programs comply the laws set by the Legislature and BRN related to nursing education.

Nursing Licensure

- ▶ In California, there are two major pathways to attain an RN license: 1) licensure by examination, and 2) licensure by endorsement.
 - ▶ Examination - An applicant must take the NCLEX-RN if they have never taken and passed the examination or been licensed as an RN in another state or U.S. territory. All applicants must have completed an educational program that meets California's requirements for an approved educational program
 - ▶ Endorsement - An applicant must hold a current and active RN license in another state, U.S. territory, or Canada, have completed an educational program meeting all California requirements, and have passed the NCLEX-RN or the State Board Test Pool Examination to qualify.
- ▶ California has approximately 530,000 active RN licenses.

Nursing Scope of Practice

▶ Business and Professions Code Section 2725

- ▶ “The practice of nursing within the meaning of this chapter means those functions, including basic health care, that help people cope with difficulties in daily living that are associated with their actual or potential health or illness problems or the treatment thereof, and that require a substantial amount of scientific knowledge or technical skill, including all of the following:
 - ▶ Direct and indirect patient care services that ensure the safety, comfort, personal hygiene, and protection of patients; and the performance of disease prevention and restorative measures.
 - ▶ Direct and indirect patient care services, including, but not limited to, the administration of medications and therapeutic agents, necessary to implement a treatment, disease prevention, or rehabilitative regimen ordered by and within the scope of licensure of a physician, dentist, podiatrist, or clinical psychologist, as defined by Section 1316.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
 - ▶ The performance of skin tests, immunization techniques, and the withdrawal of human blood from veins and arteries.
 - ▶ Observation of signs and symptoms of illness, reactions to treatment, general behavior, or general physical condition, and (A) determination of whether the signs, symptoms, reactions, behavior, or general appearance exhibit abnormal characteristics, and (B) implementation, based on observed abnormalities, of appropriate reporting, or referral, or standardized procedures, or changes in treatment regimen in accordance with standardized procedures, or the initiation of emergency procedures.”

- ▶ California Scope of Practice Questions ----> NEC.BRN@DCA.CA.GOV

Nursing Discipline

- ▶ The Enforcement Program investigates complaints and takes disciplinary action against RNs who have engaged in an activity which is unsafe and may put the public at risk.
- ▶ Enforcement Program responsibilities include the following:
 - ▶ 1) Complaint Intake
 - ▶ 2) Investigation
 - ▶ 3) Legal Action
 - ▶ 4) Probation Monitoring
- ▶ The Intervention Program is a voluntary and confidential recovery and monitoring program for RNs whose practice may be impaired by substance use disorder or behavioral health issues.
- ▶ The Intervention Program protects the public by providing RNs access to effective treatment services, monitoring their recovery through an individualized plan, and returning them to safe practice.

2023-2024 Legislative Session

- ▶ AB 2471 (Patterson) Professions and vocations: public health nurses
 - ▶ Would remove the requirement for public health nurses to renew their certificates on a biennial basis with the Board of Registered Nursing.
- ▶ SB 1067 (Smallwood Cuevas) Healing arts: expedited licensure process: medically underserved area or population.
 - ▶ Would give priority review status to the application of an applicant for licensure who demonstrates that they intend to practice in a medically underserved area or serve a medically underserved population.
- ▶ SB 1451 (Ashby) Professions and vocations
 - ▶ Would make various changes to the Nursing Practice Act as they relate to the licensure of a nurse practitioner practicing without standardized procedures.

Recently Implemented Legislation

- ▶ Assembly Bill 890 (Wood) Nurse practitioners: scope of practice: practice without standardized procedures.
 - ▶ Created two new categories of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) which are commonly referred to as 103 NPs and 104 NPs.
 - ▶ A 103 NP - Can work without standardized procedures, in a group setting with at least one physician and surgeon, within the population focus of their National Certification.
 - ▶ A 104 NP – Can work without standardized procedures, outside of a group setting, within the population focus of their National Certification.

Recently Implemented Legislation

- ▶ Assembly Bill 633 (Patterson) Nursing: licensure: retired licenses
 - ▶ Established a new license status for nurses who have retired or are retiring from the workforce and no longer want to maintain an active nursing license, but still want to maintain their RN identifier.
 - ▶ A nurse who has been granted a retired license can only provide nursing services to the public free of charge in any public health program created by federal, state, or local law or administered by a federal, state, county, or local governmental entity, if a licensed registered nurse or nurses provide adequate medical and nursing supervision.

QUESTIONS?

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Contact Us

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