

2007

STATE OF NEBRASKA

**STATUTES RELATING TO
NURSE PRACTITIONER ACT**



Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health
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INDEX

NURSE PRACTITIONER ACT

- 71-1704. Act, how cited.
- 71-1705. Repealed. Laws 2005, LB 256, §103.
- 71-1706. Definitions, where found.
- 71-1707. Nurse practitioner, defined.
- 71-1708. Board, defined.
- 71-1709. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.
- 71-1709.01. Boards, defined.
- 71-1709.02. Consultation, defined.
- 71-1710. Department, defined.
- 71-1711. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.
- 71-1712. Licensed practitioner, defined.
- 71-1713. Repealed. Laws 1993, LB 536, §128.
- 71-1714. Preceptorship, defined.
- 71-1715. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.
- 71-1716. Collaboration, defined.
- 71-1716.01. Approved certifying body, defined.
- 71-1716.02. Approved certification program, defined.
- 71-1716.03. Integrated practice agreement, defined.
- 71-1716.04. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.
- 71-1716.05. Referral, defined.
- 71-1717. Approved nurse practitioner program, defined.
- 71-1718. Repealed. Laws 1993, LB 536, §128.
- 71-1718.01. Transferred to section 71-17,134.
- 71-1718.02. Transferred to section 71-17,135
- 71-1719 to 71-1720. Repealed. Laws 1993, LB 536, §128.
- 71-1721. Advanced practice registered nurse; nurse practitioner; functions; scope.
- 71-1721.01 to 71-1721.06. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.
- 71-1721.07. Department; adopt rules and regulations.
- 71-1722. Nurse practitioner; licensure; requirements.
- 71-1723. Nurse practitioner; license.
- 71-1723.01. Nurse practitioner; right to use title or abbreviation.
- 71-1723.02. Nurse practitioner; commencement of practice; requirements; waiver.
- 71-1723.03. Nurse practitioner; actions not prohibited.
- 71-1723.04. Nurse practitioner; liability insurance; when required.
- 71-1724. Nurse practitioner; license; renewal; requirements.
- 71-1724.01. Nurse practitioner; temporary license; requirements.
- 71-1724.02 to 71-1726. Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 185, § 54.
- 71-1726.01. Unlicensed person; acts permitted.
- 71-1726.02. Prohibited acts; penalty.

STATUTES PERTAINING TO NURSE PRACTITIONER ACT

71-1704. Act, how cited. Sections 71-1704 to 71-1726.02 shall be known and may be cited as the Nurse Practitioner Act.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, §1; Laws 1984, LB 724, §2; Laws 1996, LB 414, §11; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §26; Laws 2005, LB 256, §47. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1705. Repealed. Laws 2005, LB 256, §103.

71-1706. Definitions, where found. For purposes of the Nurse Practitioner Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions provided in sections 71-1707 to 71-1717 shall apply.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, §3; Laws 1984, LB 724, §3; Laws 1992, LB 1019, §70; Laws 1996, LB 414, §13; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §28; Laws 2005, LB 256, §48. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1707. Nurse practitioner, defined. Nurse practitioner means a registered nurse certified as described in section 71-1722 and licensed under the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure Act to practice as a nurse practitioner.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 4; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 5; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 14; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 29; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 49; Laws 2007, LB185, § 5; Laws 2007, LB463, § 804. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1708. Board, defined. Board means the Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 5; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 15; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 30. Effective date April 14, 2000.

71-1709. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.

71-1709.01. Boards, defined. Boards means the Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and the Board of Nursing of the State of Nebraska.

Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 4; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 16; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 31. Effective date April 14, 2000.

71-1709.02. Consultation, defined. Consultation means a process whereby a nurse practitioner seeks the advice or opinion of a physician or another health care practitioner.

Source: Laws 1996, LB 414, §23; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §32; Laws 2005, LB 256, §50. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1710. Department, defined. Department means the Department of Health and Human Services.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 7; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 574; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 33; Laws 2007, LB296, § 484; Laws 2007, LB463, § 1319. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1711. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.

71-1712. Licensed practitioner, defined. Licensed practitioner means any podiatrist, dentist, physician, or osteopathic physician licensed to prescribe, diagnose, and treat as provided in section 71-173, 71-183, 71-1,102, or 71-1,137.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 9; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 34. Effective date April 14, 2000.

71-1713. Repealed. Laws 1993, LB 536, §128.

71-1714. Preceptorship, defined. Preceptorship means the clinical practice component of an educational program for the preparation of nurse practitioners.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, §11; Laws 1996, LB 414, §17; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §35; Laws 2005, LB 256, §51. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1715. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.

71-1716. Collaboration, defined. Collaboration means a process and relationship in which a nurse practitioner, together with other health professionals, delivers health care within the scope of authority of the various clinical specialty practices.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, §13; Laws 1984, LB 724, §11; Laws 1996, LB 414, §18; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §36; Laws 2005, LB 256, §52. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1716.01. Approved certifying body, defined. Approved certifying body means a national certification organization which certifies qualified licensed nurses for advanced practice in a clinical specialty area and which (1) requires eligibility

criteria related to education and practice, (2) offers an examination in an advanced nursing area which meets current psychometric guidelines and tests, and (3) is approved by the board.

Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 6; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 19; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 37. Effective date April 14, 2000.

71-1716.02. Approved certification program, defined. Approved certification program means a certification process for nurse practitioners utilized by an approved certifying body that (1) requires evidence of completion of a formal program of study in the nurse practitioner clinical specialty, (2) requires successful completion of a nationally recognized certification examination developed by the approved certifying body, (3) provides an ongoing recertification program, and (4) is approved by the board.

Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, §7; Laws 1996, LB 414, §20; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §38; Laws 2005, LB 256, §53. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1716.03. Integrated practice agreement, defined. Integrated practice agreement means a written agreement between a nurse practitioner and a collaborating physician in which the nurse practitioner and the collaborating physician provide for the delivery of health care through an integrated practice. The integrated practice agreement shall provide that the nurse practitioner and the collaborating physician will practice collaboratively within the framework of their respective scopes of practice. Each provider shall be responsible for his or her individual decisions in managing the health care of patients. Integrated practice includes consultation, collaboration, and referral.

The nurse practitioner and the collaborating physician shall have joint responsibility for patient care, based upon the scope of practice of each practitioner. The collaborating physician shall be responsible for supervision of the nurse practitioner to ensure the quality of health care provided to patients.

For purposes of this section:

(1) Collaborating physician means a physician or osteopathic physician licensed in Nebraska and practicing in the same geographic area and practice specialty, related specialty, or field of practice as the nurse practitioner; and

(2) Supervision means the ready availability of the collaborating physician for consultation and direction of the activities of the nurse practitioner within the nurse practitioner's defined scope of practice.

Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, §9; Laws 1996, LB 414, §21; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §39; Laws 2005, LB 256, §54. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1716.04. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.

71-1716.05. Referral, defined. Referral means a process whereby a nurse practitioner directs the patient to a physician or other health care practitioner for management of a particular problem or aspect of the patient's care.

Source: Laws 1996, LB 414, §24; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §40; Laws 2005, LB 256, §55. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1717. Approved nurse practitioner program, defined. Approved nurse practitioner program means a program which:

(1) Is a minimum of one full-time academic year or nine months in length and includes both a didactic component and a preceptorship of five hundred contact hours;

(2) Includes, but is not limited to, instruction in biological, behavioral, and health sciences relevant to practice as a nurse practitioner in a specific clinical area; and

(3) For the specialties of women's health and neonatal, grants a post-master certificate, master's degree, or doctoral degree for all applicants who graduated on or after July 1, 2007, and for all other specialties, grants a post-master certificate, master's degree, or doctoral degree for all applicants who graduated on or after July 19, 1996.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, §14; Laws 1984, LB 724, §12; Laws 1993, LB 536, §67; Laws 1996, LB 414, §22; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §41; Laws 2005, LB 256, §56. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1718. Repealed. Laws 1993, LB 536, §128.

71-1718.01. Transferred to section 71-17,134.

71-1718.02. Transferred to section 71-17,135.

71-1719 to 71-1720. Repealed. Laws 1993, LB 536, §128.

71-1721. Advanced practice registered nurse; nurse practitioner; functions; scope. (1) Until July 1, 2007, an advanced practice registered nurse may provide health care services within specialty areas. An advanced practice registered nurse shall function by establishing collaborative, consultative, and referral networks as appropriate with other health care professionals.

Patients who require care beyond the scope of practice of an advanced practice registered nurse shall be referred to an appropriate health care provider. Advanced practice registered nurse practice means health promotion, health supervision, illness prevention and diagnosis, treatment, and management of common health problems and chronic conditions, including:

(a) Assessing patients, ordering diagnostic tests and therapeutic treatments, synthesizing and analyzing data, and applying advanced nursing principles;

(b) Dispensing, incident to practice only, sample medications which are provided by the manufacturer and are provided at no charge to the patient; and

(c) Prescribing therapeutic measures and medications relating to health conditions within the scope of practice. Any limitation on the prescribing authority of the advanced practice registered nurse for controlled substances listed in Schedule II of section 28-405 shall be recorded in the integrated practice agreement established pursuant to section 71-1716.03.

(2) On and after July 1, 2007, a nurse practitioner may provide health care services within specialty areas. A nurse practitioner shall function by establishing collaborative, consultative, and referral networks as appropriate with other health care professionals.

Patients who require care beyond the scope of practice of a nurse practitioner shall be referred to an appropriate health care provider. Nurse practitioner practice means health promotion, health supervision, illness prevention and diagnosis, treatment, and management of common health problems and chronic conditions, including:

(a) Assessing patients, ordering diagnostic tests and therapeutic treatments, synthesizing and analyzing data, and applying advanced nursing principles;

(b) Dispensing, incident to practice only, sample medications which are provided by the manufacturer and are provided at no charge to the patient; and

(c) Prescribing therapeutic measures and medications relating to health conditions within the scope of practice. Any limitation on the prescribing authority of the nurse practitioner for controlled substances listed in Schedule II of section 28-405 shall be recorded in the integrated practice agreement established pursuant to section 71-1716.03.

(3) On and after July 1, 2007, a nurse practitioner who has proof of a current certification from an approved certification program in a psychiatric or mental health specialty may manage the care of patients committed under the Nebraska Mental Health Commitment Act. Patients who require care beyond the scope of practice of a nurse practitioner who has proof of a current certification from an approved certification program in a psychiatric or mental health specialty shall be referred to an appropriate health care provider.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 18; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 14; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 25; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 44; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 57; Laws 2006, LB 994, § 96. Operative date July 14, 2006.

71-1721.01 to 71-1721.06. Repealed. Laws 1996, LB 414, §52.

71-1721.07. Department; adopt rules and regulations. The department shall, after consultation with the board, adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the Nurse Practitioner Act.

Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, §28; Laws 1996, LB 414, §29; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §45; Laws 2005, LB 256, §58. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1722. Nurse practitioner; licensure; requirements. (1) An applicant for licensure under the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure Act to practice as a nurse practitioner shall have:

(a) A license as a registered nurse in the State of Nebraska or the authority based upon the Nurse Licensure Compact to practice as a registered nurse in Nebraska;

(b) Evidence of having successfully completed a graduate-level program in the clinical specialty area of nurse practitioner practice, which program is accredited by a national accrediting body;

(c) Evidence of having successfully completed thirty contact hours of education in pharmacotherapeutics; and

(d) Proof of having passed an examination pertaining to the specific nurse practitioner role in nursing adopted or approved by the board with the approval of the department. Such examination may include any recognized national credentialing examination for nurse practitioners conducted by an approved certifying body which administers an approved certification program.

(2) If more than five years have elapsed since the completion of the nurse practitioner program or since the applicant has practiced in the specific nurse practitioner role, the applicant shall meet the requirements in subsection (1) of this section and provide evidence of continuing competency as required by the board pursuant to section 71-17,135.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 19; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 20; Laws 1986, LB 926, § 55; Laws 1993, LB 536, § 70; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 30; Laws 1997, LB 752, § 173; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 46; Laws 2002, LB 1021, § 57; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 101; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 59; Laws 2007, LB185, § 6; Laws 2007, LB463, § 809. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1723. Nurse practitioner; license. Anyone fulfilling the requirements listed in section 71-1722 shall be issued a license as an advanced practice registered nurse to practice as a nurse practitioner by the department.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 20; Laws 1989, LB 344, § 16; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 31; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 47; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 102; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 60; Laws 2007, LB185, § 7; Laws 2007, LB463, § 1319. Operative date

July 1, 2007.

71-1723.01. Nurse practitioner; right to use title or abbreviation. A person licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse in this state on July 1, 2007, shall be issued a license by the department under the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licensure Act to practice as a nurse practitioner under the Nurse Practitioner Act on such date. A person licensed to practice as a nurse practitioner in this state may use the title nurse practitioner and the abbreviation NP.

Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 27; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 32; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 48; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 61; Laws 2007, LB185, § 8; Laws 2007, LB463, § 813. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1723.02. Nurse practitioner; commencement of practice; requirements; waiver. (1) Prior to commencing practice as a nurse practitioner, an individual (a) who has a master's degree or doctorate degree in nursing and has completed an approved nurse practitioner program, (b) who can demonstrate separate course work in pharmacotherapeutics, advanced health assessment, and pathophysiology or psychopathology, and (c) who has completed a minimum of two thousand hours of practice under the supervision of a physician, shall submit to the department an integrated practice agreement with a collaborating physician and shall furnish proof of professional liability insurance required under section 71-1723.04 prior to commencing practice.

(2) A nurse practitioner who needs to obtain the two thousand hours of supervised practice required under subdivision (1)(c) of this section shall (a) submit to the department one or more integrated practice agreements with a collaborating physician, (b) furnish proof of jointly approved protocols with a collaborating physician which shall guide the nurse practitioner's practice, and (c) furnish proof of professional liability insurance required under section 71-1723.04.

(3) If, after a diligent effort to obtain an integrated practice agreement, a nurse practitioner is unable to obtain an integrated practice agreement with one physician, the board may waive the requirement of an integrated practice agreement upon a showing that the applicant (a) meets the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, (b) has made a diligent effort to obtain an integrated practice agreement, and (c) will practice in a geographic area where there is a shortage of health care services.

Source: Laws 1996, LB 414, § 33; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 49; Laws 2002, LB 1062, § 46; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 62; Laws 2007, LB185, § 9; Laws 2007, LB463, § 814. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1723.03. Nurse practitioner; actions not prohibited. Nothing in the Nurse Practitioner Act shall prohibit a nurse practitioner from consulting or collaborating with and referring patients to health care providers not included in the nurse practitioner's integrated practice agreement.

Source: Laws 1996, LB 414, §34; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §50; Laws 2005, LB 256, §63. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1723.04. Nurse practitioner; liability insurance; when required. (1) Nurse practitioners shall maintain in effect professional liability insurance with such coverage and limits as may be established by the board.

(2) If a nurse practitioner renders services in a hospital or other health care facility, he or she shall be subject to the rules and regulations of that facility. Such rules and regulations may include, but need not be limited to, reasonable requirements that the nurse practitioner and all collaborating licensed practitioners maintain professional liability insurance with such coverage and limits as may be established by the hospital or other health care facility upon the recommendation of the medical staff.

Source: Laws 1996, LB 414, §35; Laws 2000, LB 1115, §51; Laws 2005, LB 256, §64. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1724. Nurse practitioner; license; renewal; requirements. To renew a license to practice as a nurse practitioner, the applicant shall have:

(1) Documentation of a minimum of two thousand eighty hours of practice as a nurse practitioner within the five years immediately preceding renewal. These practice hours shall fulfill the requirements of the practice hours required for registered nurse renewal. Practice hours as an advanced practice registered nurse prior to July 1, 2007, shall be used to fulfill the requirements of this section; and

(2) Proof of current certification in the specific nurse practitioner clinical specialty area by an approved certification program.

Source: Laws 1981, LB 379, § 21; Laws 1983, LB 472, § 6; Laws 1984, LB 724, § 21; Laws 1986, LB 926, § 56; Laws 1988, LB 1100, § 105; Laws 1993, LB 536, § 71; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 36; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 52; Laws 2002, LB 1021, § 58; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 103; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 65; Laws 2007, LB185, § 10; Laws 2007, LB463, § 811. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1724.01. Nurse practitioner; temporary license; requirements. The department may grant a temporary license to practice as a nurse practitioner for up to one hundred twenty days upon application:

(1) To graduates of an approved nurse practitioner program pending results of the first credentialing examination following graduation;

(2) To a nurse practitioner lawfully authorized to practice in another state pending completion of the application for a Nebraska license; and

(3) To applicants for purposes of a reentry program or supervised practice as part of continuing competency activities established by the board pursuant to section 71-17,135.

A temporary license issued pursuant to this section may be extended for up to one year with the approval of the board. An individual holding a temporary permit as a nurse practitioner on July 1, 2007, shall be deemed to be holding a temporary license under this section on such date. The permit holder may continue to practice under such temporary permit as a temporary license until it would have expired under its terms.

Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 22; Laws 1993, LB 536, § 72; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 37; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 53; Laws 2002, LB 1021, § 59; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 66; Laws 2007, LB185, § 11; Laws 2007, LB463, § 810. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1724.02 to 71-1726. Repealed. Laws 2007, LB 185, § 54.

71-1726.01. Unlicensed person; acts permitted. The Nurse Practitioner Act does not prohibit the performance of activities of a nurse practitioner by an unlicensed person if performed:

(1) In an emergency situation;

(2) By a legally qualified person from another state employed by the United States Government and performing official duties in this state;

(3) By a person enrolled in an approved nurse practitioner program for the preparation of nurse practitioners as part of that approved program; and

(4) By a person holding a temporary license pursuant to section 71-1724.01.

Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 25; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 40; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 58; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 71; Laws 2007, LB185, § 12; Laws 2007, LB463, § 808. Operative date July 1, 2007.

71-1726.02. Prohibited acts; penalty. Any person, corporation, association, or other entity engaging in any of the following activities is guilty of a Class IV felony:

(1) Practicing as a nurse practitioner without being issued a license as such by the department;

(2) Employing or offering to employ any person as a nurse practitioner, knowing that such person is not licensed as such by the department;

(3) Fraudulently seeking, obtaining, or furnishing a license as a nurse practitioner or aiding and abetting such activities; or

(4) Using in connection with his or her name the title nurse practitioner, the abbreviation NP, or any other designation tending to imply that he or she is a nurse practitioner licensed by the department when such person is not licensed as a nurse practitioner.

Source: Laws 1984, LB 724, § 24; Laws 1996, LB 414, § 41; Laws 2000, LB 1115, § 59; Laws 2005, LB 256, § 72; Laws 2007, LB185, § 13; Laws 2007, LB463, § 1319. Operative date July 1, 2007.