

LEGISLATIVE/ RULE CHANGES AFFECTING ADVANCED PRACTICE AND PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE 7/1/2010

On July 1, 2010, legislative changes to the Nurse Practice Act and corresponding amendments to the State Board of Nursing Rules -- Chapter XIV, Rules and Regulations to Registered Professional Nurses Qualified to Engage in Advanced Practice Nursing, and Chapter XV, Rules and Regulations Regarding Prescriptive Authority for Advanced Practice Nurses -- are effective.

Advanced Practice Registry

The Colorado Nurse Practice Act (CRS 12-28-101) and the State Board of Nursing Chapter XIV Rules, Rules and Regulations to Registered Professional Nurses Qualified to Engage in Advanced Practice Nursing, require registration with the State Board of Nursing by those professional nurses using the titles "advanced practice nurse", "certified nurse midwife", "clinical nurse specialist", "certified registered nurse anesthetist", or "nurse practitioner".

A nurse is eligible for listing on the Advanced Practice Registry by meeting the following requirements:

- An active Colorado or compact state RN license in good standing;
- A graduate or post-graduate nursing degree in the Role and Population Focus for which the Applicant seeks inclusion on the APR; OR
 - **an active advanced practice registration or license in another state or territory of the United States and proof of active practice for two of the five years immediately preceding the date of application;**
- National certification;
- Professional liability insurance or eligibility for a waiver.

Prescriptive Authority

The Colorado Nurse Practice Act and the State Board of Nursing Chapter XV Rules, Rules and Regulations Regarding Prescriptive Authority for Advanced Practice Nurses, state that an advanced practice nurse may be granted authority to prescribe prescription drugs and controlled substances to provide treatment to clients.

Effective 7/1/10, there are two levels of Prescriptive Authority:

Provisional Prescriptive Authority: The authority granted to the Applicant to prescribe medications upon completion of the required Preceptorship in accordance with the Role/Specialty and Population Focus of the RXN. Prescribing with Provisional Prescriptive Authority requires that a Mutually Structured Mentorship exist between the RXN-P and a Physician Mentor or Physician Mentor and RXN Mentor.

Provisional Prescriptive Authority does not alter or limit your prescribing practice and does not affect your DEA Registration if you hold one.

Full Prescriptive Authority: The authority granted to the RXN to prescribe medications upon completion of the required Mentorship and development of an Articulated Plan in accordance with the Role/Specialty and Population Focus of the RXN. Prescribing with Full Prescriptive Authority will be in accordance with the RXN's Articulated Plan.

(If your prescriptive authority was granted prior to 7/1/10, you will receive a letter further explaining the changes.)

Original Application

An Advanced Practice Nurse who is **applying for prescriptive authority for the first time** or an Advanced Practice Nurse who has **had prescriptive authority in another state but does not have 3600 hours of prescribing experience**, may be eligible for Provisional Prescriptive Authority by completing the Original Application for Prescriptive Authority and meeting the following requirements:

- Listing on the Advanced Practice Registry in the same Role and Population Focus for which the applicant is requesting prescriptive authority;
- A graduate or post-graduate nursing degree in the Role and Population Focus for which the Applicant is seeking prescriptive authority, or a graduate degree in nursing and a post-graduate certificate in the Role and Population Focus for which the Applicant is seeking prescriptive authority;
- Certification by a nationally recognized accrediting agency;
- Professional liability insurance or eligibility for a waiver;
- Completion of three (3) semester credit hours each of graduate level Physical Assessment, Pathophysiology and Pharmacology.
- Completion of 1800 hours of precepted prescribing experience;

Upon verification of the above criteria, the Advanced Practice Nurse will be approved for Provisional Prescriptive Authority (RXN-P). Provisional Prescriptive Authority may be retained in an active status for five (5) years from the date of issuance. Before the end of the five (5) year-period the RXN-P must submit the following documentation and the prescriptive authority will be converted to Full Prescriptive Authority. A Mutually Structured Mentorship must exist for the RXN-P to prescribe.

- Verification of completion of an 1800-hour Mentorship.
- Verification of development of an Articulated Plan.

If the required documentation is not submitted by the end of the five (5) year period, the Provisional Prescriptive Authority will expire.

Endorsement Application

An Advanced Practice Nurse **who has or has had prescriptive authority in another state and has 3600 hours of prescribing experience may be granted Provisional Prescriptive Authority by Endorsement** by meeting the following criteria:

- Listing on the Advanced Practice Registry in the same Role and Population Focus for which the applicant is requesting prescriptive authority;

- A graduate or post-graduate nursing degree in the Role and Population Focus for which the Applicant is seeking prescriptive authority, or a graduate degree in nursing and a post-graduate certificate in the Role and Population Focus for which the Applicant is seeking prescriptive authority;
- Certification by a nationally recognized accrediting agency;
- Professional liability insurance or eligibility for a waiver;
- Completion of three (3) semester credit hours of graduate level Physical Assessment, Pathophysiology and Pharmacology;
- Verification of completion of 3600 hours of prescribing experience in another state or territory of the United States in the same Role and Population Focus for which prescriptive authority is being requested.

Upon verification of the above criteria, the Advanced Practice Nurse will be approved for Provisional Prescriptive Authority (RXN-P). Provisional Prescriptive Authority granted by endorsement may be retained in an active status for one (1) year from the date of issuance. Before the end of the one (1) year-period the Endorsement RXN-P must submit verification of development of an Articulated Plan and the prescriptive authority will be converted to Full Prescriptive Authority. A Mutually Structured Mentorship must exist for the RXN-P to prescribe.

If the required documentation is not submitted by the end of the one (1) year-period, the Provisional Prescriptive Authority will expire.

The verification of development of an Articulated Plan may be submitted with the Endorsement Application and if the applicant meets all other requirements, the applicant may be granted Full Prescriptive Authority upon approval by the State Board of Nursing.

RESOURCES

Applications: Applications reflecting the new criteria will be available on the State Board of Nursing web page after June 21, 2010. Applications received at the Board of Nursing on or before June 30, 2010, and containing all required documentation, will be processed under Rules effective before July 1, 2010, and an issue date of June 30, 2010 will be reflected on those authorities approved.

Applications received on or before June 30, 2010, not containing required documentation are considered to be incomplete, and will be processed under Rules in effect on the date of completion.