Commonwealth of Virginia

REGULATIONS
GOVERNING THE LICENSURE OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING
VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE

Title of Regulations: 18 VAC 90-30-10 et seq.

Statutory Authority: §§ 54.1-2400 and 54.1-2957 of the Code of Virginia

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PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

18VAC90-30-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Approved program" means a nurse practitioner education program that is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs/Schools, American College of Nurse Midwives, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or is offered by a school of nursing or jointly offered by a school of medicine and a school of nursing that grant a graduate degree in nursing and which hold a national accreditation acceptable to the boards.

"Boards" means the Virginia Board of Nursing and the Virginia Board of Medicine.

"Certified nurse midwife" means an advanced practice registered nurse who is certified in the specialty of nurse midwifery and who is jointly licensed by the Boards of Medicine and Nursing as a nurse practitioner pursuant to § 54.1-2957 of the Code of Virginia.

"Certified registered nurse anesthetist" means an advanced practice registered nurse who is certified in the specialty of nurse anesthesia, who is jointly licensed by the Boards of Medicine and Nursing as a nurse practitioner pursuant to § 54.1-2957, and who practices under the supervision of a doctor of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, or dentistry but is not subject to the practice agreement requirement described in § 54.1-2957.

"Collaboration" means the communication and decision-making process among members of a patient care team related to the treatment and care of a patient and includes (i) communication of data and information about the treatment and care of a patient, including exchange of clinical observations and assessments, and (ii) development of an appropriate plan of care, including decisions regarding the health care provided, accessing and assessment of appropriate additional resources or expertise, and arrangement of appropriate referrals, testing, or studies.

"Committee" means the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine.

"Consultation" means the communicating of data and information, exchanging of clinical observations and assessments, accessing and assessing of additional resources and expertise, problem solving, and arranging for referrals, testing, or studies.

"Licensed nurse practitioner" means an advanced practice registered nurse who has met the requirements for licensure as stated in Part II (18VAC90-30-60 et seq.) of this chapter.

"National certifying body" means a national organization that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or deemed acceptable by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and has as one of its purposes the certification of nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives or nurse practitioners, referred to in this chapter as professional certification, and whose certification of such persons by examination is accepted by the committee.

"Patient care team physician" means a person who holds an active, unrestricted license issued by the Virginia Board of Medicine to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine.

"Practice agreement" means a written or electronic statement, jointly developed by the collaborating patient care team physician(s) and the licensed nurse practitioner(s) that describes the procedures to be followed and the acts appropriate to the specialty practice area to be performed by
the licensed nurse practitioner(s) in the care and management of patients. The practice agreement also describes the prescriptive authority of the nurse practitioner, if applicable. For a nurse practitioner licensed in the category of certified nurse midwife, the practice agreement is a statement jointly developed with the consulting physician.


A. The boards hereby delegate to the executive director of the Virginia Board of Nursing the authority to issue the initial licensure and the biennial renewal of such licensure to those persons who meet the requirements set forth in this chapter and to grant extensions for compliance with continuing competency requirements as set forth in subsection E of 18VAC90-30-105. Questions of eligibility shall be referred to the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine.

B. All records and files related to the licensure of nurse practitioners shall be maintained in the office of the Virginia Board of Nursing.

18VAC90-30-30. Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine.

A. The presidents of the Boards of Nursing and Medicine respectively shall each appoint three members from their boards to the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine. The purpose of this committee shall be to administer the Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners, 18VAC90-30-10 et seq.

B. The committee, in its discretion, may appoint an advisory committee. Such an advisory committee shall be comprised of four licensed physicians and four licensed nurse practitioners, of whom one shall be a certified nurse midwife, one shall be a certified registered nurse anesthetist and two shall be nurse practitioners from other categories. Appointment to the advisory committee shall be for four years; members may be appointed for one additional four-year period.

18VAC90-30-40. (Repealed.)

18VAC90-30-50. Fees.

A. Fees required in connection with the licensure of nurse practitioners are:

1. Application $125
2. Biennial licensure renewal $80
3. Late renewal $25
4. Reinstatement of licensure $150
5. Verification of licensure to another jurisdiction $35
6. Duplicate license $15
7. Duplicate wall certificate $25
8. Handling fee for returned check or dishonored credit card or debit card $50
9. Reinstatement of suspended or revoked license $200
B. For renewal of licensure from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2019, the following fee shall be in effect:

Biennial renewal $60

PART II. LICENSURE.

18VAC90-30-60. Licensure, general.

A. No person shall perform services as a nurse practitioner in the Commonwealth of Virginia except as prescribed in this chapter and when licensed by the Boards of Nursing and Medicine.

B. The boards shall license applicants who meet the qualifications for licensure as set forth in 18VAC90-30-80 or 18VAC90-30-85.

C. The boards may issue a restricted volunteer license for practice in accordance with provisions of § 54.1-2957.001 of the Code of Virginia.

18VAC90-30-70. Categories of licensed nurse practitioners.

A. The boards shall license nurse practitioners consistent with their specialty education and certification in the following categories (a two-digit suffix appears on licenses to designate category):

1. Adult/geriatric acute care nurse practitioner (01);
2. Family nurse practitioner (02);
3. Pediatric/primary care nurse practitioner (03);
4. Adult/geriatric primary care nurse practitioner (07);
5. Certified registered nurse anesthetist (08);
6. Certified nurse midwife (09);
7. Neonatal nurse practitioner (13);
8. Women's health nurse practitioner (14);
9. Psychiatric nurse/mental health practitioner (17); and

B. Other categories of licensed nurse practitioners shall be licensed if the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine determines that the category meets the requirements of this chapter.

C. Nurse practitioners licensed prior to January 15, 2016, may:

1. Retain the specialty category in which they were initially licensed; or

2. If the specialty category has been subsequently deleted and if qualified by certification, be issued a license in a specialty category listed in subsection A of this section that is consistent with such certification.

18VAC90-30-80. Qualifications for initial licensure.
A. An applicant for initial licensure as a nurse practitioner shall:

1. Hold a current, active license as a registered nurse in Virginia or hold a current multistate licensure privilege as a registered nurse;

2. Submit evidence of a graduate degree in nursing or in the appropriate nurse practitioner specialty from an educational program designed to prepare nurse practitioners that is an approved program as defined in 18VAC90-30-10;

3. Submit evidence of professional certification that is consistent with the specialty area of the applicant’s educational preparation issued by an agency accepted by the boards as identified in 18VAC90-30-90;

4. File the required application; and

5. Pay the application fee prescribed in 18VAC90-30-50.

B. Provisional licensure may be granted to an applicant who satisfies all requirements of this section with the exception of subdivision A 3 of this section, provided the board has received evidence of the applicant’s eligibility to sit for the certifying examination directly from the national certifying body. An applicant may practice with a provisional license for either six months from date of issuance or until issuance of a permanent license or until he receives notice that he has failed the certifying examination, whichever occurs first.

18VAC90-30-85. Qualifications for licensure by endorsement.

A. An applicant for licensure by endorsement as a nurse practitioner shall:

1. Provide verification of licensure as a nurse practitioner or advanced practice nurse in another U.S. jurisdiction with a license in good standing, or, if lapsed, eligible for reinstatement;

2. Submit evidence of professional certification that is consistent with the specialty area of the applicant’s educational preparation issued by an agency accepted by the boards as identified in 18VAC90-30-90; and

3. Submit the required application and fee as prescribed in 18VAC90-30-50.

B. An applicant shall provide evidence that includes a transcript that shows successful completion of core coursework that prepares the applicant for licensure in the appropriate specialty.

18VAC90-30-90. Certifying agencies.

A. The boards shall accept the professional certification by examination of the following:

1. American Midwifery Certification Board;

2. American Nurses Credentialing Center;

3. National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists;
4. Pediatric Nursing Certification Board;
5. National Certification Corporation;
6. American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; and
7. American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certification Corporation.

B. The boards may accept professional certification from other certifying agencies on recommendation of the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine provided the agency meets the definition of a national certifying body set forth in 18VAC90-30-10 and that the professional certification is awarded on the basis of:

1. Completion of an approved program as defined in 18VAC90-30-10; and
2. Achievement of a passing score on an examination.

18VAC90-30-100. Renewal of licensure.

A. Licensure of a nurse practitioner shall be renewed:

1. Biennially at the same time the license to practice as a registered nurse in Virginia is renewed; or

2. If licensed as a nurse practitioner with a multistate licensure privilege to practice in Virginia as a registered nurse, a licensee born in even-numbered years shall renew his license by the last day of the birth month in even numbered years and a licensee born in odd-numbered years shall renew his license by the last day of the birth month in odd-numbered years.

B. The renewal notice of the license shall be sent to the last known address of record of each nurse practitioner. Failure to receive the renewal notice shall not relieve the licensee of the responsibility for renewing the license by the expiration date.

C. The licensed nurse practitioner shall attest to compliance with continuing competency requirements of current professional certification or continuing education as prescribed in 18VAC90-30-105 and the license renewal fee prescribed in 18VAC90-30-50.

D. The license shall automatically lapse if the licensee fails to renew by the expiration date. Any person practicing as a nurse practitioner during the time a license has lapsed shall be subject to disciplinary actions by the boards.

18VAC90-30-105. Continuing competency requirements.

A. In order to renew a license biennially, a nurse practitioner initially licensed on or after May 8, 2002 shall hold current professional certification in the area of specialty practice from one of the certifying agencies designated in 18VAC90-30-90.

B. In order to renew a license biennially, nurse practitioners licensed prior to May 8, 2002 shall meet one of the following requirements:
1. Hold current professional certification in the area of specialty practice from one of the certifying agencies designated in 18VAC90-30-90; or

2. Complete at least 40 hours of continuing education in the area of specialty practice approved by one of the certifying agencies designated in 18VAC90-30-90.

C. The nurse practitioner shall retain evidence of compliance and all supporting documentation for a period of four years following the renewal period for which the records apply.

D. The boards shall periodically conduct a random audit of at least 1.0% of their licensees to determine compliance. The nurse practitioners selected for the audit shall provide the evidence of compliance and supporting documentation within 30 days of receiving notification of the audit.

E. The boards may grant an extension of the deadline for continuing competency requirements for up to one year for good cause shown upon a written request from the licensee prior to the renewal date.

F. The boards may delegate to the committee the authority to grant an exemption for all or part of the requirements for circumstances beyond the control of the licensee, such as temporary disability, mandatory military service, or officially declared disasters.

18VAC90-30-110. Reinstatement of license.

A. A licensed nurse practitioner whose license has lapsed may be reinstated within one renewal period by payment of the current renewal fee and the late renewal fee.

B. An applicant for reinstatement of license lapsed for more than one renewal period shall:

1. File the required application and reinstatement fee;

2. Be currently licensed as a registered nurse in Virginia or hold a current multistate licensure privilege as a registered nurse; and

3. Provide evidence of current professional certification or, if applicable, licensure or certification in another jurisdiction.

C. An applicant for reinstatement of license following suspension or revocation shall:

1. Petition for a reinstatement and pay the reinstatement fee;

2. Present evidence that he is currently licensed as a Registered Nurse in Virginia or hold a current multistate licensure privilege as a registered nurse; and

3. Present evidence that he is competent to resume practice as a licensed nurse practitioner in Virginia.

The committee shall act on the petition pursuant to the Administrative Process Act, § 2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia.
PART III. PRACTICE OF LICENSED NURSE PRACTITIONERS.

18VAC90-30-120. Practice of licensed nurse practitioners other than certified registered nurse anesthetists or certified nurse midwives.

A. A nurse practitioner licensed in a category other than certified registered nurse anesthetist or certified nurse midwife shall be authorized to render care in collaboration and consultation with a licensed patient care team physician as part of a patient care team.

B. The practice shall be based on specialty education preparation as an advanced practice registered nurse in accordance with standards of the applicable certifying organization, as identified in 18VAC90-30-90.

C. All nurse practitioners licensed in any category other than certified registered nurse anesthetist or certified nurse midwife shall practice in accordance with a written or electronic practice agreement as defined in 18VAC90-30-10.

D. The written or electronic practice agreement shall include provisions for:

1. The periodic review of patient charts or electronic patient records by a patient care team physician and may include provisions for visits to the site where health care is delivered in the manner and at the frequency determined by the patient care team;

2. Appropriate physician input in complex clinical cases and patient emergencies and for referrals; and

3. The nurse practitioner's authority for signatures, certifications, stamps, verifications, affidavits, and endorsements provided it is:

   a. In accordance with the specialty license of the nurse practitioner and within the scope of practice of the patient care team physician;

   b. Permitted by § 54.1-2957.02 or applicable sections of the Code of Virginia; and

   c. Not in conflict with federal law or regulation.

E. The practice agreement shall be maintained by the nurse practitioner and provided to the boards upon request. For nurse practitioners providing care to patients within a hospital or health care system, the practice agreement may be included as part of documents delineating the nurse practitioner's clinical privileges or the electronic or written delineation of duties and responsibilities; however, the nurse practitioner shall be responsible for providing a copy to the boards upon request.

18VAC90-30-121. Practice of nurse practitioners licensed as certified registered nurse anesthetists.

A. A nurse practitioner licensed in a category of certified registered nurse anesthetist shall be authorized to render care under the supervision of a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, or dentistry.
B. The practice of a certified registered nurse anesthetist shall be based on specialty education preparation as an advanced practice registered nurse in accordance with standards of the applicable certifying organization and with the functions and standards defined by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice, Revised 2013).

18VAC90-30-122. (Repealed).

18VAC90-30-123. Practice of nurse practitioners licensed as certified nurse midwives.

A. A nurse practitioner licensed in the category of certified nurse midwife shall practice in consultation with a licensed physician in accordance with a practice agreement between the nurse practitioner and the physician. Such practice agreement shall address the availability of the physician for routine and urgent consultation on patient care.

B. The practice agreement shall be maintained by the nurse midwife and provided to the boards upon request. For nurse midwives providing care to patients within a hospital or health care system, the practice agreement may be included as part of documents delineating the nurse midwife's clinical privileges or the electronic or written delineation of duties and responsibilities; however, the nurse midwife shall be responsible for providing a copy to the boards upon request.

C. A nurse practitioner licensed in the category of a certified nurse midwife shall practice in accordance with the Standards for the Practice of Midwifery (Revised 2011) defined by the American College of Nurse-Midwives.


A. A nurse practitioner, as authorized pursuant to § 54.1-2957 of the Code of Virginia, may perform or supervise the performance of laser hair removal upon completion of training in the following:

1. Skin physiology and histology;
2. Skin type and appropriate patient selection;
3. Laser safety;
4. Operation of laser device to be used;
5. Recognition of potential complications and response to any actual complication resulting from a laser hair removal treatment; and
6. A minimum number of 10 proctored patient cases with demonstrated competency in treating various skin types.

B. Nurse practitioners who have been performing laser hair removal prior to August 7, 2019, are not required to complete the training specified in subsection A of this section.

C. A nurse practitioner who delegates the practice of laser hair removal and provides supervision for such practice shall ensure the supervised person has completed the training required in subsection A of this section.

D. A nurse practitioner who performs laser hair removal or who supervises others in the practice shall receive ongoing training as necessary to maintain competency in new techniques and laser
devices. The nurse practitioner shall ensure that persons the nurse practitioner supervises also receive ongoing training to maintain competency.

E. A nurse practitioner may delegate laser hair removal to a properly trained person under the nurse practitioner's direction and supervision. Direction and supervision shall mean that the nurse practitioner is readily available at the time laser hair removal is being performed. The supervising nurse practitioner is not required to be physically present but is required to see and evaluate a patient for whom the treatment has resulted in complications prior to the continuance of laser hair removal treatment.

F. Prescribing of medication shall be in accordance with § 54.1-3303 of the Code of Virginia.

18VAC90-30-130 through 18VAC90-30-150. (Repealed.)


Practice as a licensed nurse practitioner shall be prohibited if the license as a nurse practitioner or a registered nurse is lapsed, inactive, revoked or suspended.

18VAC90-30-170 through 18VAC90-30-210. (Repealed.)

PART IV. DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS.

18VAC90-30-220. Grounds for disciplinary action against the license of a licensed nurse practitioner.

The boards may deny licensure or relicensure, revoke or suspend the license, or place on probation, censure or reprimand a nurse practitioner upon proof that the nurse practitioner:

1. Has had his license to practice nursing in this Commonwealth or in another jurisdiction revoked or suspended or otherwise disciplined;

2. Has directly or indirectly held himself out or represented himself to the public that he is a physician, or is able to, or will practice independently of a physician;

3. Has exceeded his authority as a licensed nurse practitioner;

4. Has violated or cooperated in the violation of the laws or regulations governing the practice of medicine, nursing or nurse practitioners;

5. Has become unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety to patients as the result of physical or mental illness or the excessive use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material;

6. Has violated or cooperated with others in violating or attempting to violate any law or regulation, state or federal, relating to the possession, use, dispensing, administration, or distribution of drugs;
7. Has failed to comply with continuing competency requirements as set forth in 18 VAC 90-30-105.

8. Has willfully or negligently breached the confidentiality between a practitioner and a patient. A breach of confidentiality that is required or permitted by applicable law or beyond the control of the practitioner shall not be considered negligent or willful; or

9. Has engaged in unauthorized use or disclosure of confidential information received from the Prescription Monitoring Program, the electronic system within the Department of Health Professions that monitors the dispensing of certain controlled substances.


A. The provisions of the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) shall govern proceedings on questions of violation of 18 VAC 90-30-220.

B. The Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine shall conduct all proceedings prescribed herein and shall take action on behalf of the boards.

C. When a person's license to practice nursing has been suspended or revoked by the Board of Nursing, the nurse practitioner license shall be suspended pending a hearing simultaneously with the institution of proceedings for a hearing.

D. Sanctions or other terms and conditions imposed by consent orders entered by the Board of Nursing on the license to practice nursing may apply to the nurse practitioner license, provided the consent order has been accepted by the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine.

18VAC90-30-240. Delegation of proceedings.

A. Decision to delegate. In accordance with §54.1-2400 (10) of the Code of Virginia, the Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine (committee) may delegate an informal fact-finding proceeding to an agency subordinate upon determination that probable cause exists that a nurse practitioner may be subject to a disciplinary action.

B. Criteria for delegation. Cases that involve intentional or negligent conduct that caused serious injury or harm to a patient may not be delegated to an agency subordinate, except as may be approved by the chair of the committee.

C. Criteria for an agency subordinate.

1. An agency subordinate authorized by the committee to conduct an informal fact-finding proceeding may include current or past board members and professional staff or other persons deemed knowledgeable by virtue of their training and experience in administrative proceedings involving the regulation and discipline of health professionals.

2. The Executive Director of the Board of Nursing shall maintain a list of appropriately qualified persons to whom an informal fact-finding proceeding may be delegated.
3. The committee may delegate to the executive director the selection of the agency subordinate who is deemed appropriately qualified to conduct a proceeding based on the qualifications of the subordinate and the type of case being heard.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (18VAC90-30)

Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice, revised 2013, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Standards for the Practice of Midwifery, revised 2011, American College of Nurse-Midwives