

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 08-11-019, filed 5/12/08, effective 6/12/08)

WAC 246-840-010 Definitions. (1) An "advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP)" is a registered nurse who has had formal graduate education and has achieved national specialty certification for the nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, or nurse midwife role. A nurse with this preparation may qualify as an ARNP as described in WAC 246-840-300.

(2) "Advanced nursing practice" is the delivery of nursing care by registered nurses who have acquired experience and formal education that prepares them for independent practice.

(3) "Client advocate" means a licensed registered nurse or practical nurse who actively supports client's rights and choices, including the client's right to receive safe, high quality care, and who facilitates the client's ability to exercise those rights and/or choices by providing the client (~~has~~) with adequate information about their care and options.

(4) "Commission" means the Washington state nursing care quality assurance commission.

(5) "Competency" means demonstrated knowledge, skill and ability in the practice of nursing.

(6) "Conditional approval" of a school of nursing is the approval given a school of nursing that has not met the requirements of the law and the rules and regulations of the commission; conditions are specified that must be met within a designated time to rectify the deficiency.

(7) "Delegation" means the licensed practical nurse or registered nurse transfers the performance of selected nursing tasks to competent individuals in selected situations. The licensed practical nurse or registered nurse delegating the task retains the responsibility and accountability for the nursing care of the client. The licensed practical nurse or registered nurse delegating the task supervises the performance of the unlicensed person. Delegation in community and in-home care settings is defined by WAC 246-840-910 through 246-840-970.

(a) Nursing acts delegated by the licensed practical nurse or registered nurse shall:

(i) Be within the area of responsibility of the licensed practical nurse or registered nurse delegating the act;

(ii) Be such that, in the opinion of the licensed practical nurse or registered nurse, it can be properly and safely performed by the unlicensed person without jeopardizing the patient welfare;

(iii) Be acts that a reasonable and prudent licensed practical nurse or registered nurse would find are within the scope of sound nursing judgment.

(b) Nursing acts delegated by the licensed practical nurse or

registered nurse shall not require the unlicensed person to exercise nursing judgment nor perform acts which must only be performed by a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse, except in an emergency situation (RCW 18.79.240 (1)(b) and (2)(b)).

(c) When delegating a nursing act to an unlicensed person it is the licensed practical nurse or the registered nurse who shall:

(i) Make an assessment of the patient's nursing care need before delegating the task;

(ii) Instruct the unlicensed person in the delegated task or verify competency to perform or be assured that the person is competent to perform the nursing task as a result of the systems in place by the health care agency;

(iii) Recognize that some nursing interventions require nursing knowledge, judgment, and skill and therefore may not lawfully be delegated to unlicensed persons.

(8) "Faculty" means persons who are responsible for the educational nursing program and who hold faculty appointment in the school.

(9) "Full approval" of a school of nursing is the approval signifying that a nursing program meets the requirements of the law and the rules and regulations of the commission.

(10) "Good cause" as used in WAC 246-840-860 for extension of a nurse technician registration means that the nurse technician has had undue hardship such as difficulty scheduling the examination through no fault of their own, receipt of the examination results after thirty days after the nurse technician's date of graduation, or an unexpected family crisis which caused him or her to delay sitting for the examination. Failure of the examination is not "good cause."

(11) "Good standing" as applied to a nursing technician, means the nursing technician is enrolled in a registered nursing program approved by the commission and is successfully meeting all program requirements.

(12) "Immediately available" as applied to nursing technicians, means that a registered nurse who has agreed to act as supervisor is on the premises and is within audible range and available for immediate response as needed. This may include the use of two-way communication devices which allow conversation between the nursing technician and a registered nurse who has agreed to act as supervisor.

(a) In a hospital setting, a registered nurse who has agreed to act as supervisor is on the same patient care unit as the nursing technician and the patient has been assessed by the registered nurse prior to the delegation of duties to the nursing technician.

(b) In a nursing home setting, a registered nurse who has agreed to act as supervisor is in the same building and on the same floor as the nursing technician and the patient has been assessed by the registered nurse prior to the delegation of duties to the nursing technician.

(13) "Initial approval" of nursing programs is the approval given a new nursing program based on its proposal prior to the

graduation of its first class.

(14) "Limited educational authorization" is an authorization to perform clinical training through a commission approved refresher course. This authorization does not permit practice for employment. A limited educational authorization may be issued to:

(a) A person whose Washington state license has been expired or inactive for three years or more and who applies for reinstatement and enrolls in a refresher course; or

(b) An applicant endorsing from another state or territory if the applicant's license from that jurisdiction is on inactive or expired status. The applicant must be enrolled in a refresher course.

(15) "Minimum standards of competency" means the knowledge, skills and abilities that are expected of the beginning practitioner.

(16) "Nontraditional program of nursing" means a school that has a curriculum which does not include a faculty supervised teaching/learning component in clinical settings.

(17) "Nurse administrator" is an individual who meets the qualifications contained in WAC 246-840-555 and who has been designated as the person primarily responsible for the direction of the program in nursing. Titles for this position may include, among others, dean, director, coordinator or chairperson.

(18) "Nursing technician" means a nursing student preparing for registered nurse licensure who is employed in a hospital licensed under chapter 70.41 RCW or a nursing home licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW, and who:

(a) Is currently enrolled in good standing and attending a nursing program approved by the commission and has not graduated; or

(b) Is a graduate of a nursing program approved by the commission who graduated:

(i) Within the past thirty days; or

(ii) Within the past sixty days and has received a determination that there is good cause to continue the registration period.

(c) Approved schools for nursing technicians include the list of registered nursing programs (schools) approved by state boards of nursing as preparation for the NCLEX registered nurse examination, and listed in the NCLEX bulletin as meeting minimum standards. Approved schools do not include nontraditional schools as defined in subsection (16) of this section.

(19) "Philosophy" means the beliefs and principles upon which the curriculum is based.

(20) "Program" means a division or department within a state supported educational institution, or other institution of higher learning charged with the responsibility of preparing persons to qualify for the licensing examination.

(21) "Registered nurse" as used in these rules shall mean a nurse as defined by RCW 18.79.030(1).

(22) "Supervision" of licensed or unlicensed nursing personnel means the provision of guidance and evaluation for the

accomplishment of a nursing task or activity with the initial direction of the task or activity; periodic inspection of the actual act of accomplishing the task or activity; and the authority to require corrective action.

(a) "Direct supervision" means the licensed registered nurse who provides guidance to nursing personnel and evaluation of nursing tasks is on the premises, is quickly and easily available, and has assessed the patient prior to the delegation of the duties.

(b) "Immediate supervision" means the licensed registered nurse who provides guidance to nursing personnel and evaluation of nursing tasks is on the premises, is within audible and visual range of the patient, and has assessed the patient prior to the delegation of duties.

(c) "Indirect supervision" means the licensed registered nurse who provides guidance to nursing personnel and evaluation of nursing tasks is not on the premises but has given either written or oral instructions for the care and treatment of the patient and the patient has been assessed by the registered nurse prior to the delegation of duties.

(23) "Traditional program of nursing" means a program that has a curriculum which includes a faculty supervised teaching/learning component in clinical settings.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 08-11-019, filed 5/12/08, effective 6/12/08)

WAC 246-840-020 ((Documents)) Credentials issued to nurses in Washington. The following credentials are issued to nurses in Washington.

(1) Active status license. A license is issued upon completion of all requirements for licensure. The license holder may use the title licensed practical nurse or registered nurse and the use of its abbreviation, LPN or RN. The license allows practice as a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse in the state of Washington. See WAC 246-840-201 through 246-840-207 for continuing competency program requirements.

A student who has graduated from a basic professional nursing course and who is pursuing a baccalaureate degree in nursing, an advanced degree in nursing or an advanced certification in nursing must hold an active Washington RN license before participating in the practice of nursing as required to fulfill the learning objectives in a clinical course.

(2) Inactive status license. A license issued to a person previously holding an active license in this state, is in good standing, and does not practice in Washington state. Refer to chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 4.

(3) Advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) license. An ARNP license may be issued to any person who meets the requirements

of the commission as contained in WAC 246-840-300 through 246-840-365. Only persons holding this license have the right to use the title "advanced registered nurse practitioner" or the abbreviation "ARNP" or any title or abbreviation which indicates that the person is entitled to practice at an advanced and specialized role as a nurse practitioner, a nurse midwife, or a nurse anesthetist. The ARNP may engage in the scope allowed for his or her area of national certification as approved by the commission. The license is valid only with a current registered nurse license. The ARNP's scope of practice is defined by national certification standards and approved by the commission.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 98-05-060, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98)

WAC 246-840-111 Expired license. (1) If the license has expired for three years or less, the practitioner must meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

(2) If the license has expired for more than three years and the practitioner has been in active practice in another United States jurisdiction, the practitioner must:

(a) Submit verification of active practice from any other United States jurisdiction;

(b) Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2;

(c) Meet the continuing competency requirements of WAC 246-840-201 through 246-840-207.

(3) If the license has expired for more than three years and the practitioner has not been in active practice in another United States jurisdiction, the practitioner must:

(a) Successfully complete a commission approved refresher course. The practitioner will be issued a limited educational license to enroll in the refresher course. The limited educational license is valid only while working under the direct supervision of a preceptor and is not valid for employment as a licensed practical or registered nurse;

(b) Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 2.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 98-05-060, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98)

WAC 246-840-120 Inactive credential. (1) A practitioner may obtain an inactive credential. Refer to the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 4.

(2) Practitioners with an inactive credential for three years

or less who wish to return to active status must meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 4 and WAC 246-840-204.

(3) Practitioners with an inactive credential for more than three years, who have been in active practice in another United States jurisdiction, and wish to return to active status must:

(a) Submit verification of active practice from any other United States jurisdiction;

(b) Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 4;

(c) Meet the requirements of WAC 246-840-201 through 246-840-207.

(4) Practitioners with an inactive credential for more than three years, who have not been in active practice in another United States jurisdiction, and wish to return to active status must:

(a) Successfully complete a commission approved refresher course. The practitioner will be issued a limited educational license to enroll in the refresher course. The limited educational license is valid only while working under the direct supervision of a preceptor and is not valid for employment as a licensed practical or registered nurse;

(b) Meet the requirements of chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 4.