

Guidelines for Nurse Practitioner Specialties

The APRN Board has been asked to provide guidelines for advanced practice registered nurse - nurse practitioners (APRN-NP) licensed in Nebraska specific to their specialties.

The nurse practitioner (APRN-NP) scope of practice includes health promotion, health supervision, illness prevention and diagnosis, treatment and management of common health problems and chronic conditions. The nurse practitioner provides these health care services within the specialty areas for which he/she is educationally prepared and certified.

The APRN-NP license grants the authority to practice as a nurse practitioner.

Licensure is based on education and certification in a specialty area. The licensure requirements in the Nurse Practitioner Practice Act include successful completion of a graduate-level program in a clinical specialty area of nurse practitioner practice and passing a certifying examination pertaining to the specific nurse practitioner role.

Education is the formal preparation of the APRN-NP. The certification is the formal recognition of the knowledge, skills and experience demonstrated by the achievement of standards identified by the profession.

Specialty areas recognized for licensure

in Nebraska are adult, family, gerontology, pediatric, acute pediatric, psych/mental health, adult psych/mental health, child and adolescent psych/mental health, acute care, women's health and neonatal. If an APRN-NP wishes to expand their practice into another specialty area, they must be educationally prepared and certified in that specialty.

In developing these guidelines, the board looked to the standards of professional organizations, other boards of nursing, and the certifying bodies that offer the approved certifying examinations for licensure in Nebraska. The guidelines below are based on this review.

Adult	18 years and older
Family	covers the life span
Pediatric	birth through 21 years
Gerontology	aging adult (55 years and older)
Acute	acutely ill, critically or chronically ill adult patients
Women's health	women across the life cycle with emphasis on conditions unique to women from menarche through the remainder of their life cycle
Neonatology	birth to 2 years
Adult Psych/Mental Health	provide a full range of psychiatric and primary mental health care to adults
Psych/Mental Health	provide primary mental health care to individuals of all ages and families
Child and Adolescent Psych/Mental Health	provide primary mental health care to children and adolescents through 21 years of age