

# ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING RULES

## CHAPTER FOUR ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE

### SECTION I SCOPE OF PRACTICE

The advanced practice registered nurse shall practice in a manner consistent with the definition of the practice of advanced practice registered nursing set forth in Arkansas Code Annotated §17-87-102 (4)(5)(6)(7)(8), and in accordance with the scope of practice defined by the appropriate national certifying body and the standards set forth in these rules. The advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) may provide health care for which the APRN is educationally prepared and for which competence has been attained and maintained.

### SECTION II QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

Advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) licensure shall be designated in one of the four roles below and at least one population focus: Family/Individual Across the Lifespan, Adult-Gerontology, Neonatal, Pediatrics, Women's Health/Gender-Related, or Psychiatric/Mental Health (effective 2015). A current, unencumbered registered nurse license to practice in Arkansas is required for all categories of advanced practice licensure. Effective January 1, 2003, all applicants for advanced practice licensure by examination shall have completed a graduate or post-graduate level advanced practice registered nursing education program. Applicants for advanced practice licensure by endorsement shall have met the educational and certification requirements set forth in *Arkansas State Board of Nursing Rules* at the time of their initial licensure as an advanced practice registered nurse in another jurisdiction. APRN roles and their respective qualifications are:

#### **A. CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER (CNP)**

1. Successful completion of a nationally accredited graduate or post-graduate APRN education program that prepares nurses for the advanced practice role of nurse practitioner; and
2. Hold current certification by a national certifying body recognized by the Board of Nursing in the APRN role and population foci appropriate for educational preparation.

#### **B. CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETIST (CRNA)**

1. Successful completion of a nationally accredited graduate or post-graduate APRN education program that prepares nurses to perform as nurse anesthetists; and
2. Hold current certification by a national certifying body recognized by the Board of Nursing in the APRN role and population foci appropriate for educational preparation.

#### **C. CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE (CNM)**

1. Successful completion of a nationally accredited graduate or post-graduate APRN education program that prepares nurses for the advanced practice role of nurse midwife; and
2. Hold current certification by a national certifying body recognized by the Board of Nursing in the APRN role and population foci appropriate for educational preparation; and
3. Written agreement with a consulting physician if providing intrapartum care.

#### **D. CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST (CNS)**

1. Successful completion of a nationally accredited graduate or post-graduate APRN education program that prepares nurses for the advanced practice role of clinical nurse specialist which shall include supervised clinical practice and classroom instruction in a nursing clinical practice specialty; and
2. Hold current certification by a national certifying body recognized by the Board of Nursing in the APRN role and population foci appropriate for educational preparation.

### **SECTION III** **LICENSURE**

#### **A. ELIGIBILITY**

The applicant shall meet the licensure requirements of the Board.

#### **B. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION**

In addition to a current registered nurse license to practice in Arkansas, the information submitted to the Board shall include:

1. A completed Board application form;
2. An official transcript or document from a nursing education program accredited by a nursing accrediting body that is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and/or Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), as acceptable by the Board and meets the qualifications of Section II of this Chapter in the category of advanced practice nursing for which the applicant is seeking licensure. The transcript or document shall verify the date of graduation, the degree or certificate conferred, clinical hours completed, and the role and population focus of the education program;
3. Evidence of state and federal criminal background checks conducted by the Arkansas State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation completed no earlier than twelve (12) months prior to the application for advanced practice licensure;
4. Verification of certification directly from the Board-approved national certifying body evidencing current certification in good standing; and
5. Payment of the nonrefundable fee.

#### **C. APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT**

1. The Board may issue a license by endorsement to an APRN licensed under the laws of another state if, in the opinion of the Board, the applicant meets the qualifications for licensure in this state.
2. In addition to the requirements set forth in Section II and III. A. and B. of this Chapter, the information submitted to the Board shall include documentation of current unencumbered advanced practice licensure/authority to practice in another jurisdiction.
3. An individual applying for licensure by endorsement who has been out of practice for more than two (2) years shall provide evidence of passing an APRN nursing refresher course approved by the Board or an extensive orientation, which shall include a minimum of 200 hours, in the appropriate advanced practice role and population focus which includes a supervised clinical component by a qualified preceptor who meets the following requirements:
  - a. Holds an active unencumbered APRN or physician license,
  - b. Is in current practice in the advanced role and population focus and
  - c. Functions as a supervisor and teacher and evaluates the individual's performance in the clinical setting.

#### **D. APPLICATION FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED APRN (educated outside the United States)**

An internationally educated applicant for licensure in this state as an APRN shall:

1. Graduate from a graduate level APRN program equivalent to an APRN educational program in the United States accepted by the Board.
2. Submit an official transcript directly from the international nursing education program and verified through a qualified credentials evaluation process for the license being sought.
3. Meet all other licensure criteria required of applicants educated in the United States, including English proficiency.

#### **E. TEMPORARY PERMITS**

1. Upon application and payment of the required fee, the Board shall issue a temporary permit to practice in an advanced practice nursing category to a qualified applicant who has no violations as listed in ACA §17-87-312 on the Arkansas State Police criminal background check and:
  - a. Meets the educational requirements set forth in Section II of this Chapter and has been accepted by the appropriate certification body to sit for the national certification exam he or she is eligible to take; or
  - b. Has a current advanced practice registered nurse license or the equivalent from another jurisdiction and has current Board-approved certification in the appropriate advanced practice nursing education category.

2. The temporary permit shall immediately become invalid upon receipt of information obtained from the federal criminal background check indicating any offense listed in ACA §17-87-312 or upon notification to the applicant or ASBN of failure of the certification examination.
3. The temporary permit is not renewable and does not apply to prescriptive authority.
4. In no event shall the permit be valid in excess of six (6) months.

#### **F. RENEWALS**

1. The date for renewal of licensure to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse shall coincide with renewal of the applicant's registered nurse license.
2. An applicant for renewal of an advanced practice registered nurse license shall submit to the Board:
  - a. A completed Board renewal application form;
  - b. Documentation of current national certification in the appropriate APRN specialty through a maintenance program of a Board approved certifying body;
  - c. Documentation of current compact state RN licensure if primary state of residence has enacted the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact; and
  - d. Payment of the nonrefundable renewal fee.
3. Advanced practice registered nurses with prescriptive authority shall submit evidence of a current collaborative practice agreement as a prerequisite to license renewal.
4. If disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against an individual with a lapsed, inactive, or retired license, the license shall not be renewed until the proceedings have been completed.
5. Continuing education submitted to the certifying body to meet the qualifications for recertification shall be accepted as meeting the statutory requirement for continuing education.
6. Upon request, an APRN shall submit documentation to the Board of continuing education.
7. APRNs with prescriptive authority shall complete five (5) contact hours of pharmacotherapeutics continuing education in the APRN's area of certification each biennium prior to license renewal. Effective January 1, 2017, two (2) of the five (5) hours must contain information related to maintaining professional boundaries and the prescribing rules, regulations and laws that apply to APRNs in the State of Arkansas.

#### **G. LAPSED APRN LICENSE**

The license is lapsed if not renewed or placed on inactive status by the expiration date.

1. The license is lapsed if the RN license or privilege to practice in Arkansas is not current.
2. The license is lapsed when the national certification upon which licensure was granted expires.
3. Failure to receive the renewal notice shall not relieve the licensee of the responsibility for renewing the license by the expiration date.
4. Any licensee whose license has lapsed shall submit to the Board:
  - a. A completed Board renewal application form;
  - b. Documentation of current national certification; and
  - c. The renewal fee and the reinstatement fee/late penalty.
5. Fees submitted to the Board are nonrefundable.
6. Any person engaged in advanced practice nursing during the time his or her license has lapsed shall be considered an illegal practitioner and shall be subject to the penalties provided for violation of the *Nurse Practice Act*.

#### **H. REINSTATEMENT OF APRN LICENSE**

1. An individual who applies for licensure reinstatement who has been out of practice for more than two (2) years shall provide evidence of passing an APRN refresher course approved by the Board or an extensive orientation, which shall include a minimum of 200 hours, in the appropriate advanced practice role and population focus which includes a supervised clinical component by a qualified preceptor who meets the following requirements:
  - a. Holds an active unencumbered APRN or physician license
  - b. Is in current practice in the advanced role and population focus; and
  - c. Functions as a supervisor and teacher and evaluates the individual's performance in the clinical setting
2. For those licensees applying for licensure reinstatement following disciplinary action, compliance with all Board licensure requirements as well as any specified requirements set forth in the Board's discipline order is required.

**I. INACTIVE STATUS**

1. Any licensee in good standing who desires his or her advanced practice registered nurse license to be placed on inactive status shall submit a request in writing to the Board.
2. The APRN license may immediately be placed on inactive status when the registered nurse license is placed on inactive status.
3. While the license is inactive, the licensee shall not engage in advanced practice nursing nor be subject to the payment of renewal fees.
4. If the APRN desires to resume practice in this state, he or she shall request a renewal application, which shall be completed and submitted with a renewal fee and the reinstatement fee. Fees are nonrefundable.
5. All certification and continuing education requirements for renewal shall apply.

**J. RETIRED ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE**

1. Any advanced practice registered nurse in good standing may request that their APRN license be placed on retired status.
2. The APRN shall submit a request in writing, and pay the required fee. The current license shall be placed on inactive status and a retired APRN license issued.
3. A retired APRN license shall be renewed biennially following submission of a renewal application and fee.
4. Fees are non-refundable.
5. While retired, the APRN shall not practice advanced practice nursing; however, an APRN with a retired license may use the title “Advanced Practice Registered Nurse” or the abbreviation “APRN.” Retired APRNs that maintain an active RN license may practice in the role of a Registered Nurse.
6. When the licensee desires to resume practice, he or she shall request a renewal application, which shall be completed and submitted with a reinstatement fee and the active renewal fee. The licensee must also meet those requirements outlined in Section III, F.
7. If the retired APRN license is allowed to lapse, the licensee shall not use the title of APRN and shall pay a reinstatement fee in addition to the fee required for renewal of the retired APRN license.

**K. ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS**

1. An APRN who has completed post-masters education for an additional nursing specialty shall:
  - a. Submit a request for permission to practice in the new certification area;
  - b. Submit evidence of eligibility to sit for the new certification exam from the Board-approved certifying body;
  - c. Immediately cease practicing in the specialty upon notification of failure of the exam;
  - d. Submit results of the certification in the additional specialty directly from the certifying body;
  - e. Submit an official transcript or document from a nursing education program that meets the qualifications in Section II of this Chapter verifying the date and degree or certificate conferred.
2. An APRN who has prescriptive authority shall:
  - a. Prescribe only for patients covered by the original specialty while waiting additional specialty results.
  - b. Submit a collaborative practice agreement which includes the additional certification.

**SECTION IV**  
**DUPLICATE LICENSE**

A duplicate license or certificate shall be issued when the licensee submits a notarized statement to the Board that the document is lost, stolen, or destroyed, and pays the required fee.

**SECTION V**  
**NAME OR ADDRESS CHANGE**

- A. A licensee whose name is legally changed shall be issued a replacement license following submission of a name change form, a copy of marriage license or court action, and the required fee.
- B. A licensee whose address changes from the address on file with the Board shall immediately notify the Board in writing of the change.

**SECTION VI**  
**STANDARDS OF NURSING PRACTICE**

**A. PURPOSE**

- 1. To establish standards essential for safe practice by the advanced practice registered nurse.
- 2. To serve as a guide for evaluation of advanced nursing practice.

**B. STANDARDS FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING**

- 1. The advanced practice registered nurse shall assess clients at an advanced level, identify health status including abnormal conditions, establish a diagnosis, develop and implement treatment plans and evaluate client outcomes.
- 2. The advanced practice registered nurse shall use advanced knowledge and skills in teaching and guiding clients and other health team members.
- 3. The advanced practice registered nurse shall use critical thinking and decision making at an advanced level, commensurate with the autonomy, authority, and responsibility of his/her practice category.
- 4. The advanced practice registered nurse shall have knowledge of the statutes and rules governing advanced nursing practice, and function within the legal boundaries of the appropriate advanced practice registered nursing category.
- 5. The advanced practice registered nurse shall recognize the APRN's limits of knowledge and experience, planning for situations beyond expertise, and collaborating with or referring clients to other health care providers as appropriate.
- 6. The advanced practice registered nurse shall retain professional accountability for advanced practice nursing care when delegating interventions.
- 7. The advanced practice registered nurse shall maintain current knowledge and skills in the advanced practice nursing category.
- 8. Rules which apply to registered nurses are hereby incorporated by reference.
- 9. The APRN shall comply with the standards for registered nurses as specified in Chapter 1. Standards for a specific role and population focus of APRN supersede standards for registered nurses where conflict between the standards, if any, exists.

- C. In addition to the standards, the advanced practice registered nurse shall practice in accordance with the standards established by the national certifying body from which the APRN holds his or her certification required for licensure. These standards shall have been reviewed and accepted by the Board.

**D. ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR CRNAs**

- 1. The CRNA, acting in the normal course of his/her professional practice, may be authorized by a hospital or institution to act as their agent or employee to order the administration of controlled substances under the DEA registration of the hospital or institution.
- 2. The CRNA may order nurses to administer drugs preoperatively and/or postoperatively in connection with an anesthetic and/or other operative or invasive procedure that will be or has been provided.
- 3. The CRNA's order shall be directly related to the administration of drugs preoperatively and/or postoperatively in connection with an anesthetic and/or other operative or invasive procedure that will be or has been provided.

4. A CRNA who has not been granted authority by a DEA registrant as described in Title 21 CFR 1301.22, or its successor to order the administration of controlled substances shall give all orders as verbal orders from the supervising physician, dentist, or other person lawfully entitled to order anesthesia.
5. The CRNA shall be responsible for complying with all applicable state and federal laws and rules related to medications.

## **SECTION VII**

### **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS**

- A. A national certification program which meets the following criteria shall be recognized by the Board to satisfy Section II of these rules.
- B. The national certification program:
  1. Is national in the scope of its credentialing;
  2. Is accredited by a national accreditation body as acceptable by the Board;
  3. Has no requirement for an applicant to be a member of any organization;
  4. Has an application process and credential review which includes documentation that the applicant's education is in the advanced practice nursing category being certified, and that the applicant's clinical practice is in the certification category;
  5. Education requirements are consistent with the requirements of the advanced practice role and population foci.
  6. Uses an examination as a basis for certification in the advanced practice nursing category which meets the following criteria:
    - a. The examination is based upon job analysis studies conducted using standard methodologies acceptable to the testing community;
    - b. The examination represents entry-level practice in the APRN role and population focus;
    - c. The examination represents the knowledge, skills, and abilities essential for the delivery of safe and effective advanced nursing care to clients;
    - d. The examination content and its distribution are specified in a test plan (blueprint), based on the job analysis study, that is available to examinees;
    - e. Examination items are reviewed for content validity and correct scoring using an established mechanism, both before use and periodically;
    - f. Examinations are evaluated for psychometric performance;
    - h. The passing standard is established using acceptable psychometric methods, and is re-evaluated at least every five (5) years;
    - i. Examination security is maintained through established procedures; and
    - j. A retake policy is in place.
  7. Issues certification based upon passing the examination and meeting all other certification requirements;
  8. Provides for periodic recertification which includes review of continued education, qualifications, and continued competence;
  9. Has mechanisms in place for communication to the Board for timely verification of an individual's certification status, changes in certification status, and changes in the certification program, including qualifications, test plan, and scope of practice;
  10. Has an evaluation process to provide quality assurance in its certification program.
- C. The Board will notify the appropriate certifying body when an APRN has any disciplinary action taken on their license or privilege to practice.

**SECTION VIII**  
**PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY**

**A. INITIAL APPLICANT**

An applicant for an initial certificate of prescriptive authority shall:

1. Be currently licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse in Arkansas.
2. Provide evidence from the national certifying body that differential diagnosis and prescribing practices are recognized as being within the scope of practice for the applicant's certification category.
3. Provide documentation of successful completion of pharmacology coursework which shall include pharmacokinetics principles and their clinical application and the prescription of pharmacological agents in the prevention and treatment of illness, and the restoration and maintenance of health. The coursework shall contain a minimum of:
  - a. Three (3) graduate credit hour pharmacology course offered by an accredited college or university within two years immediately prior to the date of application to the Board; or
  - b. Forty-five (45) contact hours [a contact hour is fifty (50) to sixty (60) minutes] in a pharmacology course which includes a competency component, offered by an accredited college or university, within two (2) years immediately prior to the date of application to the Board; or
  - c. Three (3) graduate credit hours pharmacology course, included as part of an advanced practice nursing education program, within five (5) years immediately prior to the date of application to the Board.
4. Provide documentation of a minimum of three hundred (300) clock hours preceptorial experience in the prescription of drugs, medicines and therapeutic devices with a qualified preceptor, to be initiated with the pharmacology course and to be completed within one year of the beginning of the course. Preceptorial experience completed as a part of the formal educational program in which the pharmacology course is taught will meet the three hundred (300) clock hour requirement.
5. Submit a collaborative practice agreement with a practicing physician who is licensed under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, §17-95-201 et seq., and who has training within the scope, specialty or expertise of the advanced practice registered nurse. APRNs who will prescribe controlled substances shall seek a collaborative practice with a physician who has an unrestricted DEA registration number. The collaborative practice agreement shall include, but not be limited to:
  - a. Availability of the collaborating physician(s) for consultation or referral or both;
  - b. Methods of management of the collaborative practice, which shall include the use of protocols for prescriptive authority;
  - c. Plans for coverage of the health care needs of a client in the emergency absence of the advanced practice registered nurse or physician;
  - d. Provision for quality assurance;
  - e. Authorization for the APRN to prescribe hydrocodone combination products which were reclassified from Schedule III to Schedule II as of October 6, 2014 if expressly authorized by the collaborating physician; and
  - f. Signatures of the advanced practice registered nurse and collaborating physician(s), signifying mutual agreement to the terms of the collaborative practice.
6. Submit the nonrefundable processing fee with the application for a certificate of prescriptive authority.
7. APRNs issued a certificate of prescriptive authority after December 31, 2015 shall obtain a minimum of three (3) hours of prescribing education which includes information on maintaining professional boundaries and the prescribing rules, regulations and laws that apply to APRNs in the state of Arkansas within two (2) years of issuance of the prescriptive authority certificate.

**B. ENDORSEMENT APPLICANT**

1. An applicant for endorsement of prescriptive authority shall:
  - a. Provide documentation of a three (3) graduate credit hour pharmacology course offered by an accredited college or university or a forty-five (45) contact hour [a contact hour is fifty (50) to sixty (60) minutes] pharmacology course which includes a competency component offered by an accredited college or university;
  - b. Provide evidence that prescriptive authority is current and unencumbered in the jurisdiction from which the applicant is moving;
  - c. Provide evidence of prescribing in a clinical setting for at least 500 hours in the year prior to application for a certificate of prescriptive authority;

- d. Have an unencumbered advanced practice registered nurse license to practice or the equivalent in the jurisdiction from which the applicant is moving;
  - e. Provide a copy of current DEA registration (if prescriber has DEA number) and history of registration status; and
  - f. Meet requirements in Section VIII.A.1, 2, 5, 6, 7.
2. Endorsement applicants who do not meet all requirements established herein shall be required to submit documentation acceptable to the Board according to Section VIII.A.

### **C. PROTOCOLS FOR PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY**

Protocols shall be made available upon request of the Board. Such protocols shall, at a minimum, include:

- 1. Indications for and classifications of legend drugs, controlled substances (if prescriber holds a DEA registration number), and therapeutic devices which will be prescribed or administered by the APRN;
- 2. Date the protocol was adopted or last reviewed, which shall be at least annually.

### **D. PRESCRIBING PRIVILEGES**

- 1. The APRN, applying for a certificate of prescriptive authority, shall acknowledge in the application that he or she is familiar with all state and federal laws and rules regarding prescribing, and shall agree to comply with these laws and rules.
- 2. An advanced practice registered nurse with a certificate of prescriptive authority may receive and prescribe legend drugs, medicines or therapeutic devices appropriate to the APRN's area of practice. The prescriptive authority for controlled drugs shall extend to drugs listed in Schedules III through V and only hydrocodone combination products which were reclassified from Schedule III to Schedule II as of October 6, 2014.
- 3. Prescribing stipulations are as follows:
  - a. Legend drugs, therapeutic devices, and controlled substances (Schedules III-V), and only hydrocodone combination products, which were reclassified from Schedule III to Schedule II as of October 6, 2014, will be prescribed, administered, or ordered as established in protocols provided that the APRN has an assigned DEA registration number which is entered on each written prescription for a controlled substance.
  - b. The APRN shall file his/her DEA registration number with the Board upon receipt.
  - c. Advanced practice registered nurses shall not delegate to unlicensed ancillary staff the calling in of prescriptions to the pharmacy.
  - d. The APRN shall notify the Board in writing within seven (7) days following termination of the collaborative practice agreement. A new collaborative practice agreement is required to be on file prior to reactivating prescriptive authority.
- 4. The APRN may prescribe a legend drug, medicine or therapeutic devices not included in the written protocols only as follows:
  - a. Upon a specific written or verbal order obtained from the collaborating physician before the prescription or order is issued by the APRN; and
  - b. Include documentation of consultation as described above in the client's medical record to be signed by the APRN;
  - c. Schedules I and II controlled substances shall not be prescribed under the APRN's certificate of prescriptive authority with the exception of hydrocodone combination products which were reclassified from Schedule III to Schedule II as of October 6, 2014.
- 5. The APRN shall note prescriptions on the client's medical record and include the following information:
  - a. Medication and strength;
  - b. Dose;
  - c. Amount prescribed;
  - d. Directions for use;
  - e. Number of refills; and
  - f. Initials or signature of APRN.
- 6. The APRN will keep accurate records to include the medical history, physical examination, other evaluations and consultations, treatment plan objective, informed consent noted in the patient record, treatment, medications given, agreements with the patient and periodic reviews.
- 7. The APRN will periodically review the course of scheduled drug treatment of the patient and any new information about etiology of the pain. If the patient has not improved, the APRN may assess the appropriateness of continued prescribing of scheduled medications or dangerous drugs, or trial of other modalities.

8. The APRN will obtain written informed consent from those patients he or she is concerned may abuse controlled substances and discuss the risks and benefits of the use of controlled substances with the patient, his or her guardian, or authorized representatives.
9. Advanced practice registered nurses in the category of certified registered nurse anesthetists shall not be required to have prescriptive authority to provide anesthesia care, including the administration of drugs or medicines necessary for such care.
10. Advanced practice registered nurses who prescribe prior to obtaining a certificate of prescriptive shall be considered illegal practitioners and shall be subject to the penalties provided for violation of the *Nurse Practice Act*.

#### **E. PRESCRIPTION FORMAT**

1. All prescriptions issued by the APRN shall contain the name of the client, and the APRN's name, title, address, telephone number, signature with the initials "APRN" and shall include information contained in Subsection D.5.a-f of this Section.
2. All prescriptions for controlled substances shall be in accordance with federal rules. The APRN's assigned DEA registration number shall be included on the prescription when a controlled substance is prescribed.

#### **F. RECEIVING PREPACKAGED DRUG SAMPLES**

1. APRNs who have an active prescriptive authority certificate may receive legend drug samples and therapeutic devices appropriate to their area of practice, including controlled substances contained in Schedules III through V and only hydrocodone combination products, which were reclassified from Schedule III to Schedule II as of October 6, 2014, which have been prepared, packaged, or fabricated by a pharmaceutical manufacturer in accordance with the Arkansas pharmacy laws and rules.
2. Records must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and rules.

#### **G. TERMINATION OF PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY**

1. Prescriptive authority may be terminated by the Board when the prescriber:
  - a. Fails to maintain current active licensure as an advanced practice registered nurse;
  - b. Violates provisions of this *Act* and/or *Rules* established by the Arkansas Department of Health, Nursing or Pharmacy Boards;
  - c. Violates any state or federal law or rules applicable to prescriptions; or
  - d. Fails to follow any conditions imposed.
2. To reinstate prescriptive authority, the APRN must meet requirements of the Board at the time of reinstatement.

#### **H. LAPSED CERTIFICATE OF PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY**

1. The certificate of prescriptive authority is lapsed if:
  - a. The licensee's active advanced practice registered nurse license is not renewed by the expiration date;
  - b. The national certification upon which licensure is based expires;
  - c. There is not a current collaborative practice agreement on file with the board; or
  - d. The advanced practice license is placed on inactive or retired status.
2. After reinstating a lapsed advanced practice registered nurse license, the licensee shall submit to the Board a current collaborative practice agreement to reactivate the certificate of prescriptive authority.
3. Any person engaged in prescribing during the time his or her certificate of prescriptive authority has lapsed shall be considered an illegal practitioner and shall be subject to the penalties provided for violation of the *Nurse Practice Act*.

#### **I. INACTIVE STATUS**

1. A certificate of prescriptive authority will automatically be considered lapsed and subject to the requirements of these rules when a licensee places his or her advanced practice registered nurse license on inactive status.
2. While the certificate of prescriptive authority or advanced practice registered nurse license is inactive, the licensee shall not engage in any practice within the scope of the certificate of prescriptive authority.
3. If the nurse desires to resume practice in this state, he or she shall request a renewal application which shall be completed and submitted with a renewal fee and the reinstatement fee. Fees are nonrefundable.
4. All certification requirements for renewal shall apply.

5. If disciplinary proceedings on an inactive licensee have been initiated, the license shall not be reinstated until the proceedings have been completed.

**J. REACTIVATION OF PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY**

APRNs whose prescriptive authority is inactive shall complete:

1. Five (5) contact hours of pharmacotherapeutics continuing education in the APRN's area of certification for each 12 months of non-prescribing activity.
2. Two (2) contact hours shall include information on maintaining professional boundaries and the prescribing rules, regulations and laws that apply to the APRNs in the state of Arkansas

**K. PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM**

1. APRNs may delegate access to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for running requested reports to no more than two licensed nurses under his or her supervision or employment at each practice location.
2. APRNs with prescriptive authority who have been found guilty, by the Board of Nursing, of violating a law or rule involving prescription drugs shall review a current report (run within the past 30 days) from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program prior to prescribing an opioid. Review of this report shall be documented in the patient's medical record.

**SECTION IX  
PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR ANOREXIANT DRUGS**

An Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) must maintain prescribing medication practices that are within the APRN's educational preparation and certification. An APRN will be in violation of the *Arkansas Nurse Practice Act* if he/she prescribes Schedule III and/or Schedule IV drugs under the Uniform Controlled Substance Act for short-term treatment of obesity, except in conformity with the requirements as set below.

**A. PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES**

1. An established APRN/patient relationship shall exist. The patient shall be age 18 or older, or have written consent from a parent or guardian. The medication shall only be an adjunct to a comprehensive weight loss program focused on appropriate nutrition education, a change in lifestyle, counseling, and an individualized exercise program. The APRN shall determine whether or not the patient has made a substantial good faith effort to lose weight through diet and alteration of lifestyle prior to beginning drug therapy.
2. The treating APRN shall take a complete history of the patient, including a detailed family history, dietary history, and shall perform a complete physical examination. The physical examination shall include a minimum of checking the blood pressure and pulse, examining the heart and lungs, recording height and weight, and administering any other appropriate diagnostic tests to evaluate for a metabolic disorder. The history and examination shall be sufficient to determine if the patient has previously been drug dependent, to determine if there is a metabolic cause of the obesity which would make anorexiant drugs inappropriate, and to determine if there are other contraindications to use of anorexiant drugs exists.
3. The APRN shall discuss with the patient different approaches to the treatment of obesity, and the risks and benefits associated with each approach. Risks shall include potential side effects, such as cardiovascular and pulmonary complications, as well as the potential for lack of success with weight loss. The APRN shall be aware of potential drug interactions between anorexiant, and other centrally acting drugs. The treating APRN shall prescribe a diet for weight loss and appropriate counseling regarding lifestyle change, and record these changes on the patient's medical record. Consideration on the use of anorexiant medications shall take into account the degree of overweight and associated medical conditions. The body mass index (BMI) shall be used as a guide to determine the degree of overweight status. In general, anorexiant medications shall only be used if the BMI is more than 27. In the case of associated obesity-related medical conditions, anorexiant medications may be considered with a BMI above 25. Obesity-related medical conditions include, but are not limited to, diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease, sleep apnea, psychological conditions, disc disease, and severe arthritis of the lower extremities.
4. The treating APRN shall prescribe a daily dosage that does not exceed the dosage recommended in the manufacturer's prescribing information for the drug prescribed.

5. The APRN shall not prescribe more than a 30-day supply for a patient at each visit and regular follow-up visits shall not exceed 30 days. The patient shall be weighed at each visit prior to the prescribing of an additional supply of the drug.
6. At the time of each return patient visit, the treating APRN shall monitor progress of the patient. The patient's weight, blood pressure, pulse, heart, and lungs shall be assessed. In addition to any side effects of the medications, the APRN shall perform appropriate exams and tests to monitor the safety of any weight loss. This may include a detailed dietary questionnaire, serum electrolytes, blood glucose, and other tests deemed appropriate. The APRN shall discontinue the anorexiant medications when the patient reaches weight loss goals. These goals may be defined as a body weight that is no longer considered "obese" (e.g. BMI of less than or equal to 27), or an improvement in medical conditions (e.g. normalization of blood glucose). After the goal is reached, the APRN may continue to prescribe anorexiant drugs for up to an additional sixty (60) days.
7. Except as otherwise provided by this regulation, Schedule III and/or Schedule IV anorexiant drugs are only recommended for short-term use (e.g. 90 days). In addition, anorexiant drugs shall not be prescribed to a patient with a BMI of less than 27, unless prescribing for obesity-related conditions with a BMI of above 25. The treating APRN may extend therapy beyond 90 days under the following conditions:
  - a. When the anorexiant drugs are indicated for treatment of diseases other than obesity; and
  - b. When, in the APRN's professional judgment, the treating APRN is assessing and recording significant progress or benefit from the drugs and no adverse effects occur that are related to the treatment.

## **SECTION X**

### **PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **A. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this committee shall include functioning in an advisory capacity to assist the Board with oversight and implementation of the provisions regarding prescriptive authority.

#### **B. COMPOSITION**

The Advisory Committee shall be composed of six (6) members appointed by the Board and approved by the Governor. Four (4) members shall be advanced practice registered nurses with at least three (3) of whom hold certificates of prescriptive authority and an active Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number. One (1) committee member shall be a licensed physician who has been involved in a collaborative practice with an advanced practice registered nurse for at least five (5) years. One member shall be a licensed pharmacist who has been licensed for at least five (5) years.

#### **C. TERMS OF OFFICE**

Members shall serve three (3) year terms and may be reappointed. The Board may remove any advisory committee member, after notice and hearing, for incapacity, incompetence, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

#### **D. COMPENSATION**

Advisory committee members shall serve without compensation; but may be reimbursed to the extent special monies are appropriated therefore for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official Board duties.

**SECTION XI**  
**NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**A. NEW APRN PROGRAM LEADING TO LICENSURE**

1. Prerequisite Approval
  - a. An institution, seeking to establish a new APRN nursing education program leading to licensure, shall submit a letter of intent to the Board.
    - (1) An applicant for an Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN) program shall comply with the “Criteria and Procedures for Preparing Proposals for New Programs,” established by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.
    - (2) Appropriate professional accreditation (nursing accrediting organizations recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation) of the new APRN program is considered to be deemed status as approved by the Board.
  - b. The institution shall submit:
    - (1) A copy of the curricula plan and course descriptions for Board review within thirty (30) days of sending the information to the accrediting body;
    - (2) Other accreditation materials as requested by the Board; and
    - (3) Documentation of accreditation within thirty (30) days of receipt of the report from the accrediting body.

**B. ESTABLISHED PROGRAM THAT PREPARES GRADUATES FOR LICENSURE**

1. Continued Full Approval - an established graduate program in advanced practice registered nursing shall submit to the Board documentation of the program’s continued national nursing accreditation status within thirty (30) days of receipt from the accrediting body. Receipt of the documentation shall serve as deemed status for approval by the ASBN.

**C. EDUCATION PROGRAM**

1. The education program for advanced practice nursing shall meet the nursing accrediting body standards for advanced practice registered nursing.
2. The curriculum plan for advanced practice registered nursing shall include:
  - a. Preparation in one of the four identified APRN roles (CRNA, CNM, CNS, and CNP); and
  - b. Preparation in at least one of the approved population foci:
    - (1) Family/Individual Across the Lifespan
    - (2) Adult-Gerontology
    - (3) Neonatal
    - (4) Pediatrics
    - (5) Women’s Health/Gender-Related
    - (6) Psychiatric/Mental Health; and
  - c. Three separate graduate level courses (the APRN Core):
    - (1) Advanced physiology and pathophysiology
    - (2) Advanced health assessment
    - (3) Advanced pharmacology
3. Clinical Experiences
  - a. All graduate or post-graduate programs leading to advanced practice licensure shall have a minimum of 500 supervised clinical hours in direct clinical practice during the program.
  - b. APRN programs preparing for two population foci shall have a minimum of 500 supervised clinical hours for each population focus.
  - c. Clinical supervision must be congruent with current national professional organizations and nursing accrediting body standards applicable to the APRN role and population focus.
  - d. Student clinical experiences shall be congruent with the population focus of the role.

**SECTION XII**  
**PRESCRIBING FOR CHRONIC NONMALIGNANT PAIN**

- A. Chronic nonmalignant pain is defined as pain requiring more than three consecutive months of prescriptions for:
  - 1. An opioid that is written for more than the equivalent of ninety (90) tablets, each containing five (5) milligrams of hydrocodone; or
  - 2. A morphine equivalent dose of more than fifteen mg (15 mg) per day; or
  - 3. Tramadol – a prescription for one hundred twenty (120) or more, fifty (50) milligram tablets.
- B. Patient Treatment and Evaluation
  - 1. The patient shall be evaluated at least one (1) time every six (6) months by a physician who is licensed by the Arkansas State Medical Board.
  - 2. A current Prescription Drug Monitoring Program report shall be reviewed at least every six (6) months. The review shall be documented in the patient's medical record.
  - 3. A current pain contract with the patient shall be maintained and include, at a minimum, requirements for:
    - a. Random urine drug screens and
    - b. Random pill counts
- C. The requirements of this section shall not apply to a patient:
  - 1. Whose pain medications are being prescribed for a malignant condition;
  - 2. With a terminal condition;
  - 3. Who is a resident of a licensed healthcare facility;
  - 4. Who is enrolled in a hospice program; or
  - 5. Who is in an inpatient or outpatient palliative care program.

*Effective: March 26, 2016*