



Notice of Proposed Changes in The Regulations of the Alaska Board of Nursing

Proposed Regulations - FAQ

September 2021

1. What is the purpose of the proposed regulations? What will this regulation do?

12 AAC 44.400(a)(5). The proposed regulations will eliminate the requirements for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to submit a consultation and referral plan before an initial license will be issued. The requirement for APRNs to submit a consultation and referral plan is outdated. This is a carryover requirement from when APRNs were not independent practitioners and is no longer relevant to APRN practice in Alaska. This will streamline the APRN application and licensing process allowing qualified APRNs to be able to begin practicing in Alaska more quickly.

12 AAC 44.440(c). The proposed regulations will remove the requirement that nurses write APRN and their prescriber identification number assigned by the board on prescriptions. The regulation still requires APRNs to comply with all applicable state and federal laws in regard to writing prescriptions. APRNs do not have a prescriber identification number assigned by the board. This regulation change will more accurately reflect current requirements for APRN prescribing.

12 AAC 44.445(j). The proposed regulations will update APRN prescribing requirements to reflect Alaska statutory requirements and CDC guidance. It sets the maximum daily dosage for an initial opioid prescription at 50 morphine milligram equivalents. Opioid misuse and abuse is of great concern in this state. Alaska statute limits daily supply of opioids and CDC provides guidance on maximum daily dosage. This change will bring regulations in line with state and national guidelines to limit the misuse and abuse of opioids.

12 AAC 44.465. The proposed regulations will remove outdated requirements for identification for APRNs, such as an APRN needing a name tag that says APRN and a sign in their office informing the public of the definition of an APRN. This regulation was put in place when APRNs were first recognized as a healthcare provider. The concern was that people would not

know what an APRN was. Decades later, APRNs are commonly known as healthcare providers which eliminates the need for these requirements. This regulation change will update requirements for APRN identification to be more consistent with current times.

12 AAC 44.805. The proposed regulations will change the requirement that certified nurse aides (CNAs) applying for certification by endorsement have to complete additional training if their training hours were not equivalent to the Alaska requirements. This regulation change would allow a CNA to receive an Alaska certification if their training met minimum federal requirements. Additionally, if the applicant has already passed a national competency exam they will not need to re-test to receive an Alaska CNA certification. The regulation was requiring practicing CNAs from outside of Alaska to complete additional training and re-take their certifying exam before they could obtain an Alaska CNA certification. This was an onerous and unnecessary process for practicing CNAs to complete and deters CNAs from moving to Alaska and work as a CNA. This regulation change will streamline the certification by endorsement process for practicing CNAs so that competent CNAs can move to Alaska and begin working more quickly.

12 AAC 44.815(b). The proposed regulations will require CNAs for renewal to attest to meeting continuing education requirements instead of providing verification or documentation; however, if selected for audit, CNAs will be required to submit proof of documentation showing completion of continuing education for renewal. This regulation change will streamline the CNA renewal process and align it with the nursing renewal requirements.

2. What are the costs to comply with the proposed regulations?

None known.

3. When will the regulations be effective?

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration. The Board may adopt the regulations as proposed/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Board action, the adopted regulations goes to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the Lt. Governor for filing. Regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov so it can be added.