


**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
NURSING CARE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION  
PROCEDURE**

<b>Title:</b>	Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) Application Exemption Requests	<b>Number:</b>	B09.06
<b>Reference:</b>	<a href="#">WAC 246-840-340</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-840-360</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-840-365</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-840-367</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-840-410</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-840-342</a> <a href="#">NCSBN's Consensus Model for APRN Regulation</a>		
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<b>Supersedes:</b>	B09.05 – March 12, 2021 B09.04 – July 2018 B09.03 - April 1, 2016 B09.02 – May 2011 B09.01 – March 2009		
<b>Approved:</b>			
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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this procedure is to define the process for an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) applicant who requests an exemption from the prescriptive authority requirements; or an applicant who requests an exemption from the educational preparation requirement; or who requests an exemption related to an emergency or permanent change in rules.

WAC 246-840-410 allows an ARNP applicant to request an exception to the 30 hours of continuing education in pharmacotherapeutics, if they provide evidence of at least two hundred fifty hours of advanced clinical practice in an ARNP role with prescriptive authority in their scope of practice within the two years prior to application for prescriptive authority.

WAC 246-840-342 requires applicants applying for endorsement to Washington State to submit proof of a graduate degree from an advanced nursing education program accredited by a national nursing accreditation body recognized by the United States Department of Education. However, National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) has established a grandfathering provision within the Consensus Model for APRN (Washington State uses ARNP) Regulation. An ARNP applicant may qualify for an exemption to the educational requirement if the requirements of the grandfathering provision are met by the nurse.

Keeping the regulations current in rapidly changing practice environments require frequent rule changes and adjustments to prevent unnecessary barriers to practice. There may be unintended and/or unanticipated consequences of rule changes regarding applicant exemption requests.

### **PROCEDURE:**

- I. Exemption Requests for the Prescriptive Authority Requirements.
  - A. Applicants requesting prescriptive authority must submit evidence of thirty hours of education in pharmacotherapeutics related to their scope of practice. The applicant may request an exemption to this requirement if the applicant has been actively practicing in another state with independent practice equivalent to Washington State with prescriptive authority, within two years of applying for ARNP licensure in Washington State. The applicant must also submit a copy of their Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license reflecting schedules 2-5.
  - B. Licensing ARNP review staff reviews the following as evidence for an exemption request:
    1. Verification of an ARNP license in another state with prescriptive authority.
    2. Copy of their Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license reflecting schedules 2-5.
    3. Verification of at least two hundred and fifty hours of independent ARNP practice with prescriptive authority within the last two years.
  - C. Licensing ARNP review staff forward the application with the exemption request to the licensing manager for approval or denial. The licensing manager determines prescriptive authority equivalence to Washington State. According to states with equivalent scope of practice, the manager informs the licensing ARNP review staff of the decision with a signed document which stays with the application file.

1. Approval: Licensing ARNP review staff forwards the application to the final review desk for licensure.
2. Denial: Licensing ARNP review staff notifies the applicant that the exception request was not granted and provides the reasoning for the denial.
3. Requires more input: Licensing ARNP review staff forwards the application to the Advanced Practice Panel (AP) for further consideration. The AP Panel is made up of; two AP Commission members; one additional pro-tem Commission member with expertise, when possible, in the practice area of the applicant; and the Director of Advanced Practice.

II. Exemption Requests for ARNP Educational Requirement for Licensure by Endorsement.

- A. Applicants applying for endorsement to Washington State must submit proof of a graduate degree from an advanced nursing education program accredited by a national nursing accreditation body recognized by the United States Department of Education. An applicant may request an exemption to this requirement if the applicant has been actively practicing in another state as an ARNP and meets the grandfathering provision from National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) Consensus Model for APRN Regulation stating the following:

*“If an APRN applies for licensure by endorsement in another state, the APRN would be eligible for licensure if s/he demonstrates that the following criteria have been met:*

1. *Current, active practice in the advanced role and population focus area,*
2. *Current active, national certification or recertification, as applicable, in the advanced role and population focus area,*
3. *Compliance with the APRN educational requirements of the state in which the APRN is applying for licensure that were in effect at the time the APRN completed his/her APRN education program, and*
4. *Compliance with all other criteria set forth by the state in which the APRN is applying for licensure (e.g., recent CE, RN licensure).”*

- B. Licensing ARNP review staff forward the application with the exemption request to the NCQAC Director of Advanced Practice for approval or denial. The Director of Advanced Practice reviews the application to determine if the educational preparedness of an ARNP applicant meets the grandfathering provision of the APRN consensus Model.

- C. The Director of Advanced Practice informs the licensing ARNP review staff of the decision with an email which stays with the application file.

1. Approval: Licensing ARNP review staff forwards the application to the final review desk for licensure.

2. Denial: After a decision is made, the ARNP review desk notifies the applicant of the decision and reasoning.
3. Requires more input: Licensing ARNP review staff forwards the application to the AP Panel for further consideration. The AP Panel is made up of; two Advanced Practice Commission members; one additional pro-tem Commission member with expertise, when possible, in the practice area of the applicant; and the Director of Advanced Practice.

III. Exemption Request Due to Unintended and/or Unanticipated Consequences of Rule Changes

- A. Applicants applying for licensure in Washington State must meet requirements as applicable in WAC 236-840-340, 360, 365, 367 during the application process.
- B. An applicant may request an exemption to a WAC requirement if the applicant can document unintended or unanticipated consequences of a rule change creating barriers to practice in Washington State.
- C. Licensing ARNP review staff forward the complete application, with the exemption request, to the NCQAC Director of Advanced Practice for approval or denial.
- D. The Director of Advanced Practice informs the licensing ARNP review staff of the decision with an email which stays with the application file.
  1. Approval: Licensing ARNP review staff forwards the application to the final review desk for licensure.
  2. Requires AP Panel Review: Licensing ARNP review staff forwards the application to the AP Panel for further consideration. The AP Panel is made up of two Advanced Practice Commission members; one additional pro-tem Commission member with expertise, when possible, in the practice area of the applicant; a staff attorney; and the Director of Advanced Practice.
  3. After a decision is made by the AP Panel, the ARNP review desk notifies the applicant of the decision and reasoning.