ADVANCED PRACTICE

WAC 246-840-300

ARNP scope of practice.

The scope of practice of a licensed ARNP is as provided in RCW 18.79.250 and this section.

- (1) The ARNP is prepared and qualified to assume primary responsibility and accountability for the care of patients within their roles of ARNP licensure:
- (a) Certified nurse practitioner (CNP);
- (b) eCertified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA);
- (c) eCertified nurse midwife (CNM); and
- (d) eClinical nurse specialist (CNS)-
- (2) As a licensed independent practitioner, an ARNP provides a wide range of health care services including the diagnosis and management of acute, chronic, and complex health conditions, health promotion, disease prevention, health education, and counseling to individuals, families, groups, and communities. Performing within the scope of the ARNP's education, training, and experience, the licensed ARNP may perform the following:
 - (a) Examine patients and establish diagnoses by patient history, physical examination, and other methods of assessment;
 - (b) Admit, manage, and discharge patients to and from health care facilities;
 - (c) Order, collect, perform, and interpret diagnostic tests;
 - (d) Manage health care by identifying, developing, implementing, and evaluating a plan of care and treatment for patients;
 - (e) Prescribe therapies and medical equipment;
 - (f) Prescribe medications <u>if the licensee has prescriptive authority</u> when granted prescriptive authority under this chapter;
 - (g) Refer patients to other health care practitioners, services, or facilities; and
 - (h) Perform procedures or provide care services that are within the ARNP's scope of practice according to a commissionboard-approved certifying body for ARNPs as defined in WAC 246-840-302.

- (3) As leaders in health care, an ARNP may ARNPs may also serve in a variety of capacities including, but not limited to, mentors, educators, coaches, advocates, researchers, interprofessional consultants, and administrators.
- (4) ARNP practice is grounded in nursing process and incorporates the use of independent judgment. Practice includes interprofessional interaction with other health care professionals in the assessment and management of wellness and health conditions.
- (5) Health care is a dynamic field requiring the scope of the ARNP to continually evolve. The ARNP is responsible for possessing a clear understanding of, and functioning within, the scope of practice of the role for which a license has been issued following the standards of care defined by the applicable certifying body approved by the boardas defined in WAC 246-840-302.
- (6) An ARNP may choose to specialize and perform those acts for which the individual is qualified and has appropriate education and competence.
- (7) The ARNP shall comply with the standards for RNs as specified in this chapter and to the standards set forth by the board. Standards for a specific role and population focus of ARNP supersede standards for RNs where conflict between the standards, if any, exists.
- (8) ARNPs shall practice within standards established by the board in rule and assure patient care is provided according to relevant patient care standards recognized by the board, and other national standards of care.

ARNP <u>roledesignations</u>, certification, and approved certification examinations.

- (1) ARNP designation roles recognized by the commission board include:
 - (a) NCertified nurse practitioner (CNP);
 - (b) Certified nurse-midwife (CNM);
 - (c) Certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA); and
 - (d) Clinical nurse specialist (CNS).
- (2) An ARNP must maintain current certification within his or hertheir designation role (s) and population focus by a commission board approved certifying body to have a valid license, as identified in subsection (3) of this section. An ARNP license becomes invalid

Commented [JD1]: Model rules 3.2.2 Standards relate to APRN Scope of Practice.

when the certification expires. An ARNP must maintain current certification and notify the board upon renewal; failure to do so will render the license invalid.

(3) To be eligible for licensure as an ARNP, an applicant must pass an examination from one of the following certifying bodies within the ARNP's specialty designation:

(a) For NP designation:

- (i) The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners;
- (ii) The American Nurses Credentialing Center;
- (iii) The National Certification Corporation;
- (iv) The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board;
- (v) The American Association of Critical Care Nurses; or
- (vi) The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation.
- (b) For CNM designation, the American Midwifery Certification Board.
- (c) For CRNA designation, the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists.
- (d) For CNS designation:
 - (i) The American Nurses Credentialing Center;
 - (ii) The American Association of Critical Care Nurses; or
 - (iii) The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation.

(34) An ARNP recognized in more than one designation role must obtain and maintain education, training, and practice in each area.

WAC 246-840-310

Use and protection of professional titles.

A person who holds a license to practice as an ARNP shall have the right to use the title "advanced registered nurse practitioner" and the abbreviation following the nurse's name shall read "ARNP" or "NP."

An ARNP may also use the applicable title or abbreviation, or designation as defined in WAC 246-840-302.

No other person shall assume such titles or use such abbreviations.

ARNP previously adopted specialties.

(1) An ARNP holding an active license, without sanctions or restrictions, under one or more of the following previously existing advanced practice certification designations, may continue to renew his or her license as an ARNP:

- (a) Community health;
- (b) Maternal-gynecological-neonatal;
- (c) Medical-surgical;
- (d) Occupational health;
- (e) Neurosurgical; or
- (f) Enterostomal therapy.
- (2) An expired license identified in subsection (1)(a) through (f) of this section will not be renewed.
- (3) The commission will not accept initial ARNP licensure applications from individuals certified in the categories identified in subsection (1)(a) through (f) of this section.

WAC 246-840-340

Initial ARNP requirements.

- (1) An applicant for licensure as an ARNP shall have the following qualifications:
 - (a) An active Washington state RN license <u>or active RN multistate license issued</u> <u>from another state</u>, without sanctions or restrictions;
 - (b) A graduate degree from an advanced nursing education program accredited by a nursing accrediting body that is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or its successor organization, as acceptable by the board. advanced nursing education program accredited by a national nursing accreditation body recognized by the United States Department of Education;
 - (c) Certification from a certifying body <u>approved by the boardas identified in WAC 246-840-302</u>:

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- (d) Evidence of thirty contact hours of education in pharmacology, including didactic and clinical application, and consisting of pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacotherapeutics, and pharmacological management of individual patients related to the applicant's scope of practice, unless opting out of prescriptive authority pursuant of RCW 18.79.240.
- (i) Pharmacology education must be completed within a two-year time period immediately prior to the date of application unless the applicant has graduated within the past two years from an advanced nursing education program.
- (ii) If an ARNP applicant does not have advanced pharmacology education, the applicant must complete advanced pharmacology education of at least thirty contact hours, including pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacotherapeutics and pharmacological management of individual patients, differential diagnosis, and applied pharmacological management of patients consistent with the applicant's area of certification. The thirty contact hours of advanced pharmacology education may be obtained from the following:
- (A) Study within the advanced nursing education program; or
- (B) Continuing education programs accepted by a national credentialing body.
- (iii) An ARNP who applies for a new or additional ARNP role must send proof of advanced pharmacology educational content appropriate to each designation.

Completion of advanced clinical practice hours, as defined in WAC <u>246-840-010(1)</u> and in the role of an advanced practice nurse as defined in WAC <u>246-840-010(2)</u>, when applicable, in situations under subsection (3) of this section.

- (2) An applicant for ARNP licensure shall submit:
 - (a) A completed ARNP application for licensure to the board commission;
 - (b) The license fee as specified in WAC 246-840-990;
 - (c) A request to the <u>board-approved</u> certifying body, <u>as identified in WAC <u>246-840-</u>302, to send official documentation of certification directly to the <u>board-commission</u>;</u>
 - (d) A request to the advanced nursing educational program to send an official transcript directly to the commission showing <u>date of graduation</u>, courses, grades, degree or certificate granted, official seal, and appropriate registrar; and
 - (e) Program objectives and course descriptions when requested by the board; and

Commented [JD3]: From WAC 246-840-410
Application requirements for ARNP prescriptive authority.

- (f) Evidence of completion of required advanced pharmacology education hours identified in subsection (1)(d) or evidence of holding prescriptive authority from another state at the time of application.
- (3) To be granted a license without meeting the advanced clinical practice requirements identified in subsection (4) of this section, the ARNP shall initiate the application process within one year of earning a graduate degree from an advanced nursing education program.
- (4) An ARNP applicant who does not apply within one year of earning a graduate degree from an advanced nursing education program may be eligible to receive an ARNP interim permit for the purpose of completing 125 hours of advanced clinical practice for every additional year following graduation, not to exceed 1,000 hours. The ARNP interim permit expires one year after the submission of the application.
 - (a) An ARNP applicant's clinical practice must be supervised by an ARNP under chapter 18.79 RCW, a physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, or equivalent licensure in another state or United States jurisdiction. The ARNP interim permit holder must complete supervised advanced clinical practice as defined in subsections (4) and (5) of this section.
 - (b) The supervisor must be in the same practice specialty in which the applicant is seeking licensure. The supervising ARNP or physician:
 - (i) Shall have an active ARNP or physician license, for two or more years, without sanctions or restrictions;
 - (ii) Must not be a member of the applicant's immediate family, as defined in RCW 42.17A.005(27); or have a financial, business, or professional relationship that is in conflict with the proper discharge of the supervisor's duties to impartially supervise and evaluate the nurse;
 - (iii) Must not have current disciplinary action on their license;
 - (iv) Shall submit documented evidence to the board verifying the applicant's successful completion of the required supervised clinical practice hours in an ARNP role.
- (5) An ARNP applicant needing to complete supervised advanced clinical practice:
 - (a) Shall meet the requirements of subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section;
 - (b) Shall indicate on the ARNP application the need for an interim permit; and

(c) Must obtain:

- (i) Board approval of the supervising ARNP or physician; and
- (ii) The interim permit.
- (6) The nurse must use the designation interim ARNP at all times and on all documentation of the supervised clinical practice hours.
- (7) An applicant holding an active RN license, without sanctions or restrictions; and current national certification as a CNS; and is practicing in Washington state in an advanced nursing role, will be exempt from the supervised practice requirement if they can provide evidence of 250 hours of advanced clinical practice within the last two years.

WAC 246-840-342

Licensure for ARNP applicants by interstate endorsement.

- (1) An applicant for interstate endorsement for Washington state licensure as an ARNP shall meet the following requirements:
 - (a) Have an active RN and ARNP license, or recognition in another state or jurisdiction, as practicing in an advanced practice role, without sanctions or restrictions;
 - (b) Have a graduate degree from an advanced nursing education program accredited by a nursing accrediting body that is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and/or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or its successor organization, as acceptable by the board as identified in WAC 246-840-340 (1)(b), unless the applicant has been practicing in another state, U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia (D.C.) as an ARNP_and demonstrates that the following criteria have been met:
 - (i) Current advanced nursing practice, as defined in WAC <u>246-840-010(2)</u>, in the advanced role and population focus area;
 - (ii) National certification or recertification, in the advanced role and population focus area;
 - (iii) Compliance with the ARNP educational requirements of the board that were in effect at the time the ARNP completed their ARNP education program; and

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- (iiiv) Compliance with all other criteria for licensure set forth by the board; and
- (c) Provide verification of meeting the pharmacology education requirements equivalent to WAC 246-840-340(1)(d) or evidence of holding prescriptive authority in another jurisdiction within the past two years unless opting out pursuant to RCW 18.79.240; and
- (d) Hold certification from a <u>board-approved</u> certifying body. <u>as identified in</u> WAC <u>246-840-302(3)</u>.
- (2) An applicant for an ARNP license through interstate endorsement shall:
 - (a) Apply for and be granted a Washington state RN license <u>when the conditions</u> as identified in WAC <u>246-840-090</u> have been met or hold an active multistate RN license issued from another state;
 - (b) Submit a completed ARNP application for licensure to the board;
 - (c) Submit the license fee as specified in WAC 246-840-990;
 - (d) Request the <u>board-approved</u> certifying body, <u>as identified in WAC <u>246-840-302</u>, to send official documentation of certification directly to the board;</u>
 - (e) Request the advanced nursing educational program to send an official transcript directly to the board showing <u>date of graduation</u>, courses, grades, degree or certificate granted, official seal and appropriate registrar; and
 - (f) Submit nursing education program objectives and course descriptions when requested by the board.
 - (g) Evidence of completion of required advanced pharmacology education hours identified in WAC 246-840-340 (1)(d) or evidence of holding prescriptive authority from another state at the time of application.

Licensure for ARNP applicants educated and licensed outside the United States <u>jurisditions</u>.

- (1) An applicant for ARNP licensure in Washington state, educated and licensed outside the United States <u>jurisdictions</u>, shall:
 - (a) Apply for and be granted an active RN license, or recognition in another state or jurisdiction, without sanctions or restrictions, issued by a regulatory entity outside

the United States <u>jurisdictions</u>, and have been practicing at an advanced practice level;

- (b) Submit a course-by-course evaluation of education from a commission board approved credential evaluating service verifying the advanced nursing educational program completed by the applicant is equivalent to the ARNP education identified in WAC 246-840-455246-840-340;
- (c) Hold certification from a certifying body <u>approved by the boardas identified in</u> WAC <u>246-840-302</u>(3); and
- (d) Provide evidence of completion of advanced pharmacology coursework equivalent to WAC 246-840-340(1)(d). Have been performing advanced clinical practice in his or her country for at least two hundred fifty hours within the two years prior to the date of application for ARNP licensure.
- (2) An applicant educated and licensed outside of the United States jurisdictions shall:
 - (a) Apply for and be granted a Washington state RN license, without sanctions or restrictions, when the conditions have been met as identified in WAC 246-840-045;
 - (b) Submit a completed ARNP application to the commission board;
 - (c) Submit the license fee as specified in WAC 246-840-990;
 - (d) Submit a course-by-course evaluation of education completed from a commission board approved credential evaluating service;

 - (f) Submit evidence of at least two hundred fifty hours of advanced clinical practice as an ARNP, or in an advanced practice role, within the two years prior to the date of application. The two hundred fifty hours may include teaching advanced nursing practice if providing direct patient care as a faculty member or serving as a preceptor in a clinical setting.
- (3) Internationally educated ARNP applicants who do not meet advanced clinical practice requirements shall complete two hundred fifty hours of supervised advanced clinical practice for every two years the applicant may have been out of practice, not to exceed one thousand hours.

(4) An ARNP applicant needing to complete supervised advanced clinical practice shall obtain an ARNP interim permit consistent with the requirements for supervised practice defined in WAC <u>246-840-340</u> (4) and (5).

WAC 246-840-360

Renewal of ARNP licensure.

- (1) An applicant applying for ARNP license renewal, shall <u>meet the following</u> requirements have:
 - (a) AnHave an active Washington state RN license, without sanctions or restrictions;
 - (b) <u>CHold a current certification from a board-approved certifying body. The applicant shall submit evidence of current certification by the board-approved certifying body for each designation as identified in WAC 246-840-302; and</u>
 - (c) Thirty Have 30 contact hours of continuing education obtained during the renewal period in each ARNP designation of and 15 contact hours of continuing education in pharmacotherapeutics related to the licensee's scope of practice unless opting out of prescriptive authority pursuant of RCW 18.79.240. An ARNP who has certification in more than one area of practice may count the continuing education hours for more than one certification when applicable to each area of practice.

(2) An applicant for ARNP licensure renewal shall comply with the requirements of chapter **246-12** WAC, Part 2 and submit:

- (\underline{da}) <u>FSubmit t</u>he renewal license fee as specified in WAC <u>246-840-990</u>;
- (b) <u>EProvide evidence</u> of current certification by the <u>commissionboard</u>-approved certifying body for each <u>designationrole</u>;
- (c) ASubmit a written declaration, on forms provided by the commissionboard attesting to: Completion of thirty30 contact hours of continuing education during the renewal period for each ARNP designation role and 15 hours in pharmacotherapeutics for ARNPs with prescriptive authority; and
- (d) <u>EProvide evidence</u> of completion of continuing education contact hours and advanced clinical practice hours when requested by the <u>commissionboard</u>.

Continuing education for ARNP license renewal.

The thirty-45 contact hours of continuing education required for the two-year renewal of ARNP licensure must:

- (1) Be acceptable to the board-approved certifying body identified in WAC 246-840-302(3);
- (2) Be obtained from courses in which the contact hour is at least fifty 50 minutes;
- (3) <u>Include 15 hours of pharmacotherapeutic continuing education when required for an ARNP, which must:</u>
 - (a) Relate to the ARNP's scope of certification and scope of practice;
 - (b) Be obtained from continuing education courses in which the contact hour time is not less than 50 minutesNot include the fifteen hours of continuing education required for an ARNP with prescriptive authority as identified in WAC <u>246-840-</u>450 (1)(b); and
- (4) Not include the same course taken more than once during the renewal cycle.

WAC 246-840-365

Inactive and rReactivating an ARNP license.

To apply for an inactive ARNP license, an ARNP shall comply with WAC <u>246-12-090</u> or <u>246-12-540</u>, if military related.

- (1) An ARNP may apply for an inactive license if he or she holds an active Washington state ARNP license without sanctions or restrictions.
- (2) To return to active status the ARNP:
 - (a) Shall meet the requirements for an inactive credential for nonmilitary practitioners identified under WAC 246-12-090 through 246-12-110;
 - (b) Must hold an active RN license under chapter 18.79 RCW without sanctions or restrictions;
 - (c) Shall submit the fee as identified under WAC 246-840-990;
 - (d) Shall submit evidence of current certification by the commission approved certifying body identified in WAC <u>246-840-302</u>(1); and

- (e) Shall submit evidence of 30 contact hours of continuing education for each designation within the past two years.
- (3) To regain prescriptive authority after inactive status, the applicant must meet the prescriptive authority requirements identified in WAC <u>246-840-410</u>.
- (1) An individual who applies for ARNP licensure reactivation and who has been out of practice for more than five years shall provide evidence of successfully completing 250 hours of a reorientation in the appropriate advanced practice role and population focus, which includes a supervised clinical component by a qualified preceptor.
- (2) Preceptor must meet the requirements in WAC 246-840-533.

Expired license.

When an ARNP license is not renewed, it is placed in expired status and the nurse must not practice as an ARNP.

- (1) To return to active status when the license has been expired for less than two-five years, the nurse shall:
 - (a) Meet the requirements for initial and renewal credentialing of practitioners as identified under WAC 246-840-040246-12-020 through 246-12-051;
 - b) Meet ARNP renewal requirements identified in WAC 246-840-360.; and
 - (c) Meet the prescriptive authority requirements identified in WAC <u>246-840-450</u>, if renewing prescriptive authority.
- (2) If the ARNP license has expired for <u>five</u>two years or more, the applicant shall:
 - (a) Meet the requirements for initial and renewal credentialing of practitioners as identified under WAC 246-840-040246-12-020 through 246-12-051;
 - (b) Submit evidence of current certification by the commissionboard-approved certifying body identified in WAC 246-840-302(3); and
 - (c) Submit evidence of 30 contact hours of continuing education for each designation role within the prior two years.; and
 - (d) Meet the prescriptive authority requirements identified in WAC <u>246-840-410246-840-340</u> if requesting prescriptive authority, which may be granted once the ARNP license is returned to active status.

ARNP prescriptive authority.

- (1) An ARNP licensed under chapter <u>18.79</u> RCW when authorized by the nursing commissionboard may prescribe drugs and medical devices pursuant to applicable state and federal laws.
- (2) The ARNP when exercising prescriptive authority is accountable for competency in:
 - (a) Problem identification through appropriate assessment;
 - (b) Medication and device selection;
 - (c) Patient education for use of therapeutics;
 - (d) Knowledge of interactions of therapeutics;
 - (e) Evaluation of outcome; and
 - (f) Recognition and management of side effects, adverse reactions, and complications.

WAC 246-840-410

Application requirements for ARNP prescriptive authority.

- (1) An ARNP who applies for prescriptive authority must:
 - (a) Hold an active Washington state ARNP license, without sanctions or restrictions, issued by the commission;
 - (b) Provide evidence of thirty contact hours of education in pharmacology, including didactic and clinical application, and consisting of pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacotherapeutics, and pharmacological management of individual patients related to the applicant's scope of practice.
- (2) Pharmacology education must be completed within a two-year time period immediately prior to the date of application for prescriptive authority unless the applicant has graduated within the past two years from an advanced nursing education program meeting requirements identified in WAC 246-840-455 (11)(e).
- (3) If an ARNP applicant does not have advanced pharmacology education, the applicant must complete:

- (a) Advanced pharmacology education of at least thirty contact hours, including pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, pharmacotherapeutics and pharmacological management of individual patients, differential diagnosis, and applied pharmacological management of patients consistent with the applicant's area of certification.
- (b) Supervised advanced clinical practice of no less than one hundred fifty hours that meets the requirements of WAC <u>246-840-340</u> (4) and (5). The clinical practice hours shall occur after completion of the thirty hours of advanced pharmacology education under the direct supervision of an ARNP with prescriptive authority, a physician as identified in chapter <u>18.71</u> RCW, an osteopathic physician as identified in chapter <u>18.57</u> RCW, or equivalent in other states or jurisdictions. The thirty contact hours of advanced pharmacology education is obtained from the following:
 - (i) Study within the advanced nursing education program; or
 - (ii) Continuing education programs accepted by a national credentialing body.
- (4) The ARNP applying for prescriptive authority must submit:
 - (a) A completed application on a commission approved form;
 - (b) The fee as specified in WAC 246-840-990; and
 - (c) Evidence of completion of required advanced pharmacology education hours and supervised advanced clinical practice hours identified in subsection (3)(a) and (b) of this section.
- (5) If an ARNP does not apply for prescriptive authority within two years of graduation from an advanced practice program, an additional thirty contact hours of advanced pharmacology education shall be required.
- (6) An ARNP who applies for a new or additional ARNP designation must send proof of advanced pharmacology educational content appropriate to each designation.
- (7) Applicants who hold prescriptive authority from another state at the time of application may request an exemption to subsection (3)(a) and (b) of this section if he or she provides evidence of at least two hundred fifty hours of advanced clinical practice in an ARNP role with prescriptive authority in his or her scope of practice within the two years prior to application for prescriptive authority.

Authorized prescriptions by ARNP. with prescriptive authority.

Prescriptions for drugs and medical devices must comply with all applicable state and federal laws and be within the ARNP's scope of practice.

- (1) An ARNP must sign prescriptions and include the initials ARNP or NP.
- (2) An ARNP may not, under RCW <u>18.79.240</u>(1) and chapter <u>69.50</u> RCW, prescribe controlled substances in Schedule I.
- (3) An ARNP with prescriptive authority who prescribes controlled substances must be registered with the drug enforcement administration.

WAC 246-840-450

Renewal of ARNP prescriptive authority.

(1) ARNP prescriptive authority must be renewed at the time of renewal of the ARNP license. For renewal of ARNP prescriptive authority, the licensee must:

(a) Meet the requirements of WAC 246-840-360; and

(b) Provide a written declaration on forms provided by the commission of fifteen contact hours of continuing education during the renewal period in pharmacotherapeutics related to the licensee's scope of practice that are in addition to the thirty contact hours of continuing education required for renewal of the ARNP license as identified in WAC 246-840-360 (1)(c) and (2)(c) and 246-840-361; and

(c) Submit evidence of completion of continuing education contact hours when requested by the commission.

(2) If the licensee fails to renew his or her prescriptive authority prior to the expiration date, then the individual may not prescribe until the prescriptive authority is renewed and is subject to the late renewal fee specified in WAC <u>246-840-990</u> and chapter <u>246-12</u> WAC, Part 2.

WAC 246-840-451

Continuing education requirements for ARNP prescriptive authority.

(1) The fifteen hours of pharmacotherapeutic continuing education must:

- (a) Relate to the ARNP's scope of certification and scope of practice; and
- (b) Be obtained from continuing education courses in which the contact hour time is not less than fifty minutes.
- (2) The same course taken more than once during a reporting cycle shall be only counted once.