



**APRN MODERNIZATION ACT**  
*Education Accreditation  
Certification Licensure*

**Scopes of Practice for APRN and the Four Roles**

**Definition and Description of APRN**

“Advanced practice registered nursing” means practicing in one of the 4 recognized roles based on advanced clinical knowledge and skills focusing on direct care of individuals, greater responsibility, autonomy, and accountability for the provision of care, health promotion and maintenance, management of patient conditions, and the use and prescription of pharmacological interventions.

“Clinical pharmacology or therapeutics” means the identification of individual and classes of drugs, their indications and contraindications, their efficacy, their side effects and their interactions, as well as, clinical judgment skills and decision-making based on thorough intervening, history-taking, physical assessment, test selection and interpretation, pathophysiology, epidemiology, diagnostic reasoning, differentiation of conditions, treatment decisions, case evaluation, and nonpharmacological interventions.

**Common characteristics of APRNs:**

- Practice autonomously and in collaboration with other health professionals to optimize patient outcomes
- Provide direct care to a range of patients in acute, ambulatory, and community care settings

**Certified Nurse Midwife**

Certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) provide a full range of health care for women throughout the lifespan. CNMs provide initial and ongoing comprehensive assessment, diagnosis and treatment from adolescence to beyond menopause.

- provide primary health care services, gynecologic care, family planning services, and treatment of male partners for sexually transmitted infections
- provide preconception care, care during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period, and care of the normal newborn during the first 28 days of life
- perform physical examinations, prescribe medications and medical devices, and order and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests
- admit, manage and discharge patients from the hospital
- provide health promotion, disease prevention, and individualized wellness education and counseling, in partnership with women and families
- provide care in diverse settings such as ambulatory care clinics, private offices, community and public health systems, homes, hospitals and birth centers

## **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist**

Certified Registered nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) provide high-quality, holistic, evidenced-based anesthesia and pain care services. CRNAs care for patients at all acuity levels across the lifespan in a variety of settings for procedures.

- conduct a preanesthesia evaluation to develop and initiate a patient-specific plan of care, including performing a comprehensive history and physical exam and obtaining informed consent for anesthesia
- select, order, prescribe and administer drugs and controlled substances
- select and insert invasive and noninvasive monitoring modalities
- plan and initiate anesthetic techniques, such as general, regional, local, and sedation, including the use of ultrasound, fluoroscopy and other technologies for diagnosis and care delivery and to improve patient safety and comfort
- provide acute, chronic and interventional pain management services, as well as critical care and resuscitation services using airway management and other techniques
- order and evaluate diagnostic tests, including point-of-care testing, and requesting consultation when indicated
- facilitate emergence and recovery from anesthesia care, including medication management, conducting a post-anesthesia evaluation, and discharge from the post-anesthesia care area or facility
- provide care as the primary anesthesia professionals for the U.S. Military, rural, and medically underserved populations

## **Clinical Nurse Specialist**

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) are expert clinicians in a specialized area of nursing practice, such as population (e.g. pediatrics), type of problem (e.g. wound care), setting (e.g. Intensive Care Unit), type of care (e.g. rehabilitation), or disease (e.g. diabetes). Regardless of specialty or setting, they provide leadership in clinical expertise, nursing practice, and systems innovation.

- provide diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing management of patients
- prescribe medications, therapies, and durable medical equipment
- consult and collaborates with other disciplines to coordinate patient care
- provide expertise and support to bedside nurses, help drive practice changes, and ensure the use of best practices and evidence-based care to achieve high-quality outcomes
- utilize, evaluate and conduct nursing research
- design, implement, assess and evaluate interventions to improve health care delivery and outcomes
- can hold certification in population areas such as Adult/Gerontology, Pediatrics or Neonatal
- practice in wide variety of health care settings, such as a hospital, private practice, clinic or in the community

## **Nurse Practitioner**

Nurse practitioners (NPs) are providers of direct patient care that blend clinical expertise in assessing, diagnosing and managing health conditions, with an added emphasis on disease prevention and the well-being of the whole person. NPs provide the full range of patient-centered health care as primary and/or specialty care providers.

- provide initial and ongoing comprehensive care for individuals, families and groups with acute episodic and chronic illnesses
- obtain comprehensive health histories and physical exams
- order and interpret diagnostic and laboratory tests; and perform procedures

- prescribe pharmacological and non-pharmacologic treatments and therapies
- emphasize patient education and counseling, care coordination, health promotion and disease prevention
- work autonomously and in collaboration with other health care professionals to optimize patient outcomes
- hold specialty education and certification in one or more specialty areas of NP practice, including Acute Care, Adult Health, Family Health, Gerontology, Neonatal Health, Pediatric/Child Health, Psychiatric/Mental Health and Women's Health
- provide care in clinics, hospitals, emergency departments, urgent care sites, private physician or NP practices, nursing homes, schools and colleges, public health departments and via telehealth in urban, suburban and rural communities

Links to scope of practice statements:

CNM: <http://www.midwife.org/ACNM/files/ACNMLibraryData/UPLOADFILENAME/00000000266/Definition%20of%20Midwifery%20and%20Scope%20of%20Practice%20of%20CNMs%20and%20CMs%20Dec%202011.pdf>

NP: <https://www.aanp.org/images/documents/publications/scopeofpractice.pdf>

CRNA: <http://www.aana.com/resources2/professionalpractice/Documents/PPM%20Scope%20of%20Nurse%20Anesthesia%20Practice.pdf>

CNS: <http://nacns.org/about-us/what-is-a-cns/>