
WNA Informational Paper

Requirements for procuring a Wisconsin advanced practice nurse prescriber (APNP) certificate and regulatory guidelines

Background and Purpose:

In Wisconsin, the method used to recognize and authorize advanced practice nursing is through the issuing of an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP) Certificate. This is. The purpose of this informational paper is to provide the regulations and guidelines for obtaining a certificate to prescribe as an Advanced Practice Nurse in Wisconsin. This informational paper was created by the WNA NP Forum Board of Directors, the participants of WNA's APRN Roundtable and support from the staff from State of Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services.

Scope:

The information provided is divided into three sections:

Section 1. Obtaining and renewing an APNP certificate in Wisconsin to issue prescription orders

Section 2. State of Wisconsin requirements for prescribing controlled substances.

Section 3. State of Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP)

Section 1. Obtaining an APNP certificate in Wisconsin to issue prescription orders

A. Background

1. Information related to APNP certificate is found in Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter N8 of the Wisconsin Board of Nursing [Administrative Code ch. N 8](#)
2. The State of Wisconsin defines an advanced practice nurse in [N8.02](#) : “Advanced practice nurse prescriber” (APNP) means an advanced practice nurse who has been granted a certificate to issue prescription orders under s. [441.16 \(2\)](#), Stats. ⁱ

B. An applicant must have a WI RN License or active Multistate RN License to practice in WI

1. For RNs that do not have a Wisconsin license or an active Multistate RN license you can apply via the licensure endorsement process by going to [LicenseE](#) website.
2. You will also be required to complete the Wisconsin Nursing Workforce Survey.ⁱⁱ

C. Requirements for obtaining an APNP certificate

1. Initial certification as an APNP shall be granted a certificate by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS)ⁱⁱⁱ through the Wisconsin Board of Nursing/ if the applicant completes the online application process using the [LicenseE](#) portal.
 - a. Create a username and password to begin the application process if not already created.
 - b. Go to “Apply for License” and click on link.
 - c. Under “Category” use the drop down box and select “Health”
 - d. Under license type use drop down box and select “Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber” and then click next and follow steps.
 - e. Then click “Licensure by Examination” and follow steps. Applicants need to click on this regardless of existing equivalent licensure in another state or a new graduate. Licensure by examination refers to the jurisprudence exam that all APNP applicants must take and is further described below.
 - f. The 2021 Wis. Act 10 is a temporary bridge credential. The Act took effect during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to rapidly boost Wisconsin’s health-care workforce, while maintaining quality via existing licensure requirements Act 10 can be issued to a provider from another state during a national public health emergency. This license can also be issued to providers who are licensed in good standing in another state who also apply for permanent license at the same time. Act 10 still requires an active and completed application for permanent licensure under “licensure by examination” before DSPS can act on it. The Act 10 license will expire on the date that DSPS or a board attached to DSPS has either granted or denied the application for permanent credential.
2. If an applicant holds a WI RN license, no evidence is required as it is accessed in WI license holders records by DSPS. If the applicant has a multistate RN license and WI is not the primary source of residence (PSOR) then verification is needed.
3. Provide evidence of current certification by a national certifying body approved by the board of nursing as a nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, certified registered nurse anesthetist, or clinical nurse specialist.
4. Provide evidence of a master’s or doctoral degree in nursing or a related health field granted by a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting organization approved by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. This subsection does not apply to those who received national certification as a nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, certified registered nurse anesthetist, or clinical nurse specialist before July 1, 1998.
5. Provide evidence of completion of 45 contact hours in clinical pharmacology or therapeutics within 5 years preceding the application for a certificate regardless of being a new graduate or experienced APRN. Unofficial transcript for semester credits is accepted, and all other CEU should be uploaded in certificate form.
 - a. One semester credit=15 contact hours
 - b. Clinical Pharmacology/Therapeutics is defined in [WIs Admin Code N 8.02\(4\)](#)

6. When the application and payment is submitted, instructions for jurisprudence examination is emailed directly to the applicant. It focuses on the knowledge of Wisconsin statutes and legislation related to APNPs. This is an online and open book test that covers
7. [N7](#), [N8](#), [Phar 8](#), [Chapter 146](#) and [Chapter 961](#).
8. There is an additional re-take fee for every time the exam is taken beyond the first exam.

D. Other Requirements:

1. *Malpractice Insurance Coverage:* APNPs who prescribe independently shall maintain malpractice (liability) insurance either by personal coverage or under a group policy. Proof of malpractice insurance shall be submitted to BON/DPSP in the amount not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 for all occurrences in one year.^{iv}
2. Pay applicable fees.

- E. For APNP Renewal step by step instructions go to: [LicenseE Renewal Instructions.pdf \(wi.gov\)](#)
1. Every APNP shall complete 16 contact hours per biennium in clinical pharmacology or therapeutics relevant to the APNP's area of practice, to include 2 contact hours in prescribing controlled substances

Section 2. Prescribing Controlled Substances-Drug Enforcement Administration

- A. Any APRN who administers, prescribes, or dispenses any controlled substances must be registered with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
- B. To obtain a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license, go to: https://deaddiversion.usdoj.gov/online_forms_apps.html
- C. Some employers and pharmacies require a DEA license regardless of if a provider plans to prescribe or not prescribe controlled substances.
- D. The Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act requires new or renewing DEA registrants to have completed a total of 8 hours of training on opioid or other substance use disorders in addition to the safe pharmacological management. The MATE Act is a one-time requirement.
- E. Remember to update your address if your practice location has moved

Section 3. Wisconsin Enhanced Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP)

- A. The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP) is a tool used in WI to help combat the ongoing epidemic of prescription drug abuse by:
 1. Assisting healthcare providers in their prescribing and dispensing decisions.
 2. Assists the ability of pharmacies, law enforcement agencies, healthcare professionals, and public health officials to work together to reduce the misuse, abuse and diversion of monitored prescription drugs.
- B. In order to access the Wisconsin ePDMP, the provider needs to create and login and password once a DEA License is obtained. Link: [Welcome - Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program](#)

- C. There is a requirement to review controlled substances of patients prior to prescribing. There are also several electronic health records (EHRs) in WI that have integration to ePDMP website without having to go to site separately.

For more information or questions go to: info@wisconsinnurses.org

ⁱ State of Wisconsin Board of Nursing. *Certification of Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers*. (February 1995). Retrieved from the world wide web, https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/n/8

ⁱⁱ State of Wisconsin State Statute. *Nursing workforce survey and grant*, (2009). Retrieved from the world wide web, [statutes/106.30\(5\)](http://statutes/106.30(5))

ⁱⁱⁱ State agencies and offices within the State of Wisconsin, State of Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. (June, 2011). Retrieved from the world wide web, <https://dsps.wi.gov/pages/Home.aspx>

^{iv} State of Wisconsin Board of Nursing. *Malpractice insurance coverage*. (February 1995). Retrieved from the world wide web, [administrativecode/N 8.08](http://administrativecode/N%208.08)