

Policy Section: Advanced Practice

Policy Title: **APRN postgraduate equivalencies for psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner**

Date Originated: 08/22/16

Adopted: 09/21/16

- I. **PURPOSE:** To define the postgraduate education that is substantially equivalent to the knowledge, judgement and skills for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) to be competent to practice pursuant to NRS 433A.170, NRS 433A.195, NRS 433A.200.

- II. **BACKGROUND STATEMENT:** It is the mission of the Nevada State Board of Nursing (Board) to protect the public by regulating the practice of nursing. The Board will update the scope of practice of APRNs based upon changes in Nevada Revised Statutes and upon changes in technology and APRN education.

Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 433A was recently amended. The statutory amendments expanded the list of persons authorized to complete certain certificates concerning the mental condition of another to include properly qualified APRNs.

At the same time, NRS 632.120 was amended requiring the Board to adopt regulations establishing reasonable standards for the psychiatric training and experience necessary for an APRN to be authorized to make the certifications concerning the mental condition of another.

The Board adopted the necessary regulations. LCB File R105-15 was adopted on April 4, 2016, and provides:

Chapter 632 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

An advanced practice registered nurse is authorized to make the certifications described in NRS 433A.170, 433A.195 and 433A.200, as amended by sections 1.7, 2 and 4, respectively, of Senate Bill No. 7, chapter 496, Statutes of Nevada 2015, at pages 2991, 2992 and 2993, if the advanced practice registered nurse has:

1. Been issued a license by the Board to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse with a population of focus in mental health;
2. Been issued a license by the Board to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse in a role as a clinical nurse specialist with an area of clinical specialty in psychiatric and mental health nursing; or
3. Completed postgraduate education that has been approved by the Board or has completed additional nursing preparation in which the advanced practice registered nurse gained knowledge, judgment and skills specifically related to psychiatric and mental health nursing that the Board determines is substantially equivalent to the knowledge, judgment and

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skills of an advanced practice registered nurse who has the qualifications set forth in subsection 1 or 2.

- III. **POLICY STATEMENT** The Board determines that an APRN's postgraduate education or additional nursing preparation is substantially equivalent to the knowledge, judgment and skill of an APRN who is licensed by the Board with a population of focus in mental health or with an area of clinical specialty in psychiatric and mental health nursing if:

The APRN has completed postgraduate education requirements necessary for national certification as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

SPECIFIC STATUTES/REGULATIONS:

NRS 632.120, 632.237

NAC 632.255, 632.2597, 632.260, 632.300, 632.305

Approved by the Board: 09/21/16