

Official Publication of the

Nevada State Board of **NURSING**



Nevada Nursing News

WORDS

From the Executive Director

**Cathy Dinauer,
MSN, RN, FRE**



Each year, the Nevada State Board of Nursing collects statistics regarding trends in licensure, certification, investigations, discipline and continuing education. The data collected reflects the previous fiscal year from July 1 through June 30.

The results are available in our Annual Report which can be found on our website at:

<https://nevadanursingboard.org>. I was somewhat perplexed this last year and current year, at the growing number of investigations leading to discipline among nurses acting outside their scope. Of particular note are complaints against nurses who have decided to “help” themselves to a variety of IV fluids for their personal use. This can mean use for themselves or others.

The reasons for the taking of the IV fluids varies, but nonetheless, the outcome is usually the same. Discipline for the nurse. Whether a nurse takes the fluids for their own personal use or takes the fluids to give to someone else, it is a violation of the Nurse Practice Act. The violations include but are not limited to: NAC 632.890 (2) acting beyond the scope of practice of nursing, (18) diverting supplies, equipment or drugs for personal or unauthorized use, (21) obtaining, furnishing or administering prescription drugs to anyone including themselves, except as directed by a person authorized to prescribe and, (27) failing to follow customary standards. An ordinary bag of IV fluids is not for the taking. It is a drug and you as the nurse, are not entitled to help yourself.

You may not think of IV fluids as a “dangerous drug” but Nevada law NRS 454.201 clearly defines them as such. You need a prescription or an order to possess them. NRS 454.316 Possession of dangerous drug without prescription unlawful; penalties; exceptions addresses the penalties for being in possession of a prescription/dangerous drug unlawfully. NAC 632.220 Medication and treatment of patients; response to orders; adjustment of dosage or frequency of medication identifies the practitioners that a nurse shall receive medication orders from and the nurse’s responsibilities for appropriate administration of them.

Most nurses in our state practice safely and without incident for their entire career. Less than 1% of nurses are disciplined; but you do not want to be in that 1%. You are responsible to know your scope of practice. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Board. We are happy to answer your questions.

Reference

McCord, Sam (2019). [IV Hydration Scope of Practice: What Registered Nurses Need to Know](#). Nevada State Board of Nursing Nursing News (63). pp 6-7.



**Cheryl A. Maes,
Ph.D., APRN, FNP-BC,
Board President**

Message From the President

Message from the President

The increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, in higher education, especially in nursing education, has indeed sparked recent significant discussion. Undoubtedly, the ability of AI to provide immediate access to knowledge and simulate clinical scenarios can offer nursing students valuable opportunities to explore complex subjects. Not to mention, AI can serve as a supplementary tool for reinforcing theoretical knowledge, offering practice questions, or simulating various patient conditions and treatment options. The use of AI has countless potentials in making learning more flexible and accessible while catering to different learning styles and needs. Sources for practical guidance for the use of AI in nursing education are sparse; however, the American Nurses Association (2022) has published a position paper on the ethical use of AI in nursing practice.

Nursing, like other healthcare professions, is deeply rooted in human interactions and the application of both technical and interpersonal skills. The emotional intelligence required for patient care—recognizing and responding to non-verbal cues, offering comfort, and showing empathy—is something AI cannot replicate. Nurse educators, therefore, must play a pivotal role in ensuring that students continue to develop these essential competencies. AI should be viewed as a complement, not a replacement, for the critical components of nursing education. The educator’s role remains irreplaceable in guiding students while helping them develop the judgment and interpersonal skills necessary for effective and safe patient care. By striking the right balance—using AI to support learning while maintaining a strong focus on human-centered care—nursing education can prepare students for both the technical and relational challenges they will face in their careers.

Valid and growing are concerns surrounding AI and plagiarism in higher education, particularly in nursing education, as the increasing accessibility and capabilities of AI tools can make it easier for students to circumvent academic integrity. The findings from the BestColleges survey underscore the extent of this issue, with a significant proportion of nursing and health professional students admitting to using generative AI tools to complete assignments and even take examinations (Nam, 2023). This trend raises important questions about how AI impacts the learning process and whether it undermines the principles of academic honesty. As noted in the survey, many students perceive the use of AI tools for completing academic work as cheating or plagiarism, which complicates the matter even further (Nam, 2023). While AI tools can certainly enhance learning by aiding assistance, explanations, and generating content, their use in academic settings — particularly for examinations and/or assignments — can blur ethical lines. With this survey data indicating students are using AI tools during examinations, even possibly with platforms such as ExamSoft and Respondus Lockdown Browser, designed to prevent cheating, speaks to the need for stronger monitoring systems and clearer guidelines on how AI should be used in academic environments.

From the perspective of nurse educators, this reliance on AI for exam-taking or assignment completion poses a direct challenge to the development of the critical thinking and decision-making skills that are essential in the nursing profession. In clinical practice, nurses must make independent judgments, engage in problem-solving, and use evidence-based reasoning. If students lean on AI for support in these areas, it may hinder their ability to cultivate the necessary skills for real-world healthcare situations. As this very topic was recently discussed during a National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) President/Chair Networking meeting, addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach. Educators may need to consider redesigning assessments to focus more on application, critical thinking, and clinical judgment, making it harder for AI tools to generate appropriate responses. Additionally, fostering discussions about the ethical use of AI, promoting awareness of academic integrity, and implementing advanced detection tools are essential steps to mitigate the risk of AI-assisted cheating and plagiarism in nursing education (Glauber et al., 2023).

The inclusion of AI in course syllabi as a preliminary strategy is an imperative step toward managing its use in higher education, particularly in nursing education. As highlighted by Brown (2023), universities are adopting various approaches ranging from prohibitive to permissive when it comes to AI usage, creating a framework within which students can understand the boundaries of ethical AI use. For nurse educators, developing clear guidelines on acceptable AI usage within syllabi is essential to maintain academic integrity and support students in navigating the balance between leveraging technology for learning and fostering independent, original thinking.

As a nurse educator, I appreciate why this topic is particularly relevant, especially given the Nevada State Board of Nursing's role in approving nursing programs and ensuring ongoing competence in the field. The integration of AI tools into nursing education aligns with the evolving healthcare landscape, where AI is becoming an essential part of clinical practice. Nurses, patients, and other healthcare professionals are increasingly using AI tools to enhance patient care, improve diagnostic accuracy, and streamline workflows, so it is vital that nursing students are prepared for this shift. Incorporating AI into nursing education can provide valuable opportunities for students to engage with cutting-edge technology in a controlled, educational setting, helping them understand both the capabilities and limitations of AI tools (Glauber et al., 2023). By learning how to use these tools responsibly, nursing students can become more proficient in leveraging technology to improve patient outcomes while continuing to develop essential human skills such as communication, empathy, and clinical judgment.

The challenge, however, lies in ensuring that AI tools are integrated in a way that strengthens, rather than undermines, critical thinking and academic integrity. Nurse educators must foster a learning environment where students feel encouraged to explore AI tools but also understand the ethical implications of their use. Moreover, educators should emphasize the importance of digital literacy, equipping students with the skills to critically assess AI-generated information and encourage ongoing reflection on how AI can be used to support, rather than replace human expertise in nursing practice (Glauber et al., 2023). Ultimately, by adopting this approach, nursing programs can help students embrace technology as an aid to their clinical work, while upholding the core values of nursing, such as compassionate care, accountability, and integrity. This careful balance will prepare the next generation of nurses to navigate the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly AI-driven healthcare environment.

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American Nurses Association (2022, December 20). *The ethical use of artificial intelligence in nursing practice*. <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/official-position-statements/>

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Nam, J. (2023, November 22). *56% of college students have used AI on assignments and exams*. BestColleges. <https://www.bestcolleges.com/research/most-college-students-have-used-ai-survey/>

GUESS WHAT?

Did you know that you are required to notify the Board of any updates to your residential address within 30 days after the change?

KEEPING YOUR INFORMATION UP TO DATE IS THE BEST WAY TO BE NOTIFIED OF ANY NEW/UPDATED CE REQUIREMENTS OR UPDATES TO YOUR LICENSE/CERTIFICATE.

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Hot Topics for Nurse Practitioners to Watch in 2025

By Susan S. VanBeuge, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN



As 2025 begins, it is time to look forward at potential trends for the profession as nurses and nurse practitioners. Just as individuals set personal goals for 2025, professionals should be looking at trends and envisioning themselves for the next years ahead.

A review of the current trends in health care provides topics to follow. According to the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP, 2024), the top trends include: artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, growing demands for older adult care, integration of mental health into primary care, continued limited access to primary care provider services, and nurse practitioners expanded role as clinicians to treat patients with substance use disorders. To add to this list, topics of job growth for nurse practitioners, nursing workforce retention, burnout, and policy changes affecting practice also top out as hot topics from year to year.

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare is not new. Historically, AI has been used for data analysis, patient education and decision-making support. AI has use in enhancing diagnosis, personalizing treatment plans, and aiding in decision-making. The tools available enhance practice to increase accuracy, early detection of diseases such as cancers or diabetic retinopathy, and predicting risk factors for cardiovascular disease (Alowais, et al, 2023). AI technology also helps with patient flow, with efficient use of medical charting so that clinicians may be fully engaged in the encounter rather than taking notes and being at the computer (AANP, 2024).

Job growth for advanced practice nurses has been on the rise for years and continues to flourish. Advanced practice nurses include certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), nurse midwife (CNM), or nurse practitioner (NP). According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, an expected 45% job growth for nurse practitioners from 2023-2033 is driven by the increasing needs of our aging population and greater emphasis on preventive care. The prospect of pay is favorable for the advanced practice nurse with a median pay of \$129,480/year and \$62.50/hour in 2023. As trends follow with a shortage of primary care providers, aging population, and needs in the rural and frontier areas of the country, the outlook for advanced practice nursing is favorable (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2024).

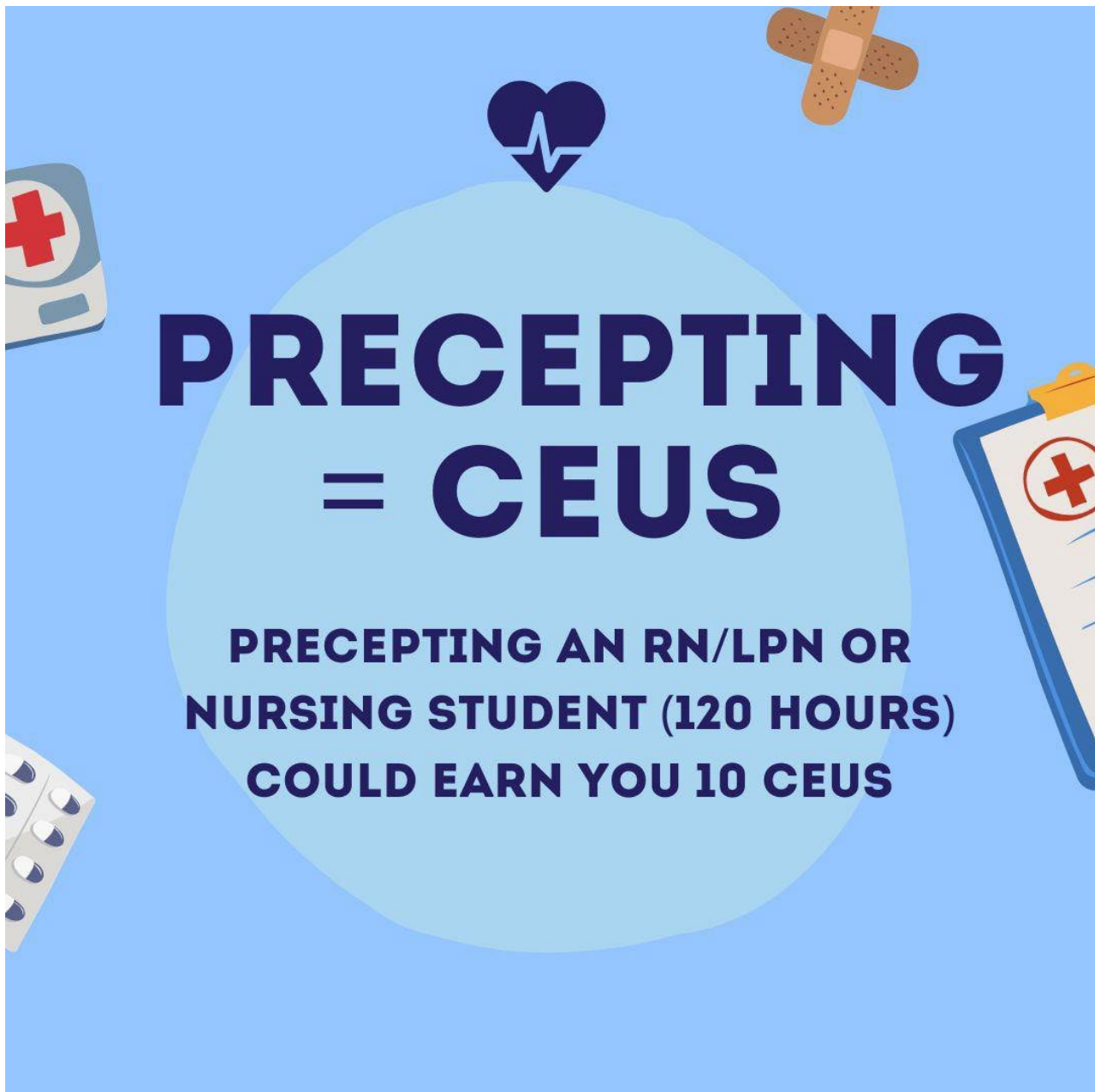
When looking at job growth for advanced practice nursing, one must also review recent data with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing 2022 Workforce Survey (Smiley, et al., 2022). Growth in the role of the advanced practice nurse is clear and the opportunities to flourish continue. In a 2020 publication by DePriest, et al., their study looked at states who implemented full practice authority (FPA) between 2010-2018. Nevada was one of the states included in the study, as FPA passed into law during the 2013 legislative session. The study results proved states like Nevada have increased NP growth in numbers of providers, growth of NP owned practices, and more access to care in health professional shortage areas. As autonomy is gained by individual state, growth for the NP in various settings is a trend on the rise. This increasing number of providers fit well to the trends of needed clinicians in primary, older adult, mental health, and substance abuse care.

Insert article here Stress and burnout are real concerns for the health care workforce. Nurse practitioners are not immune to situations where these experiences potentially have impact on the workforce. The data from a 2024 study by the National Council State Boards of Nursing found that the profession is at a crossroads. Growth in the profession is not disputed, but the working situations are intensified and accelerated in the global health crisis of COVID-19 and the ongoing stressors in the workplace. Nurse practitioners report being emotionally drained, burned out, fatigued, and considering leaving the profession altogether. Those most at risk are younger, less experienced nurse practitioners (Martin, et al., 2024). The findings of this study mirror the 2022 nursing workforce study (Smiley, et al., 2023). As the nursing workforce leaders evaluate the data across the profession, it is important to consider while the outlook is excellent for nurse practitioners in the next decade, attention needs to be paid to the working conditions, mental health, burnout, and overall well-being of the nursing community. This will affect patient outcomes and community health now and in the future.

The outlook for nurse practitioners in 2025 is positive. There are opportunities for growth in practice, leadership, education, and policy. There are also red flags for well-being of the nursing workforce leadership must acknowledge and plan for positive solutions. Nurse practitioners have a unique voice and experience to bring to the table when making decisions about safe and effective patient care, policy to reform and promote positive health outcomes, lead in education, and improve health outcomes for our community.

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All dates and locations are subject to change

*Virtual/teleconference options available

*** January 15-16, 2025**

NSBN Conference Room
6005 Plumas Street Ste. 101
Reno, NV 89519

*** March 19-20, 2025**

Doubletree by Hilton
Las Vegas Airport
7250 Pollock Dr
Las Vegas, NV 89119

*** May 14-15, 2025**

NSBN Conference Room
6005 Plumas Street Ste. 101
Reno, NV 89519

July 16-18, 2025

Zephyr Point Presbyterian
Conference Center
660 Hwy 50
Zephyr Cove, Nevada 89448

***September 17-18, 2025**

NSBN Conference Room
6005 Plumas Street Ste. 101
Reno, NV 89519

***November 19-20, 2025**

Doubletree by Hilton
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Committee Meetings and Openings

**Advanced Practice
Advisory Committee:**

February 11, 2025
May 13, 2025
August 12, 2025

**CNA & Medication
Aide – Certified
Committee:**

April 3, 2025
August 7, 2025

**Disability Advisory
Committee:**

January 9, 2025
April 10, 2025
July 10, 2025

November 18, 2025

October 2, 2025

October 9, 2025

**Education Advisory
Committee:**

January 10, 2025
April 11, 2025
August 8, 2025
October 10, 2025

**LPN Advisory
Committee:**

February 27, 2025
May 8, 2025
August 21, 2025
November TBD

**Nurse Practice Advisory
Committee:**

February 4, 2025
May 6, 2025
August 5, 2025
November 4, 2025

CNA Advisory Committee: 1 medication aides-certified

Disability Advisory Committee: 1 opening January 2025