



Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Update

1 message

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services
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The legislation that created the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) credential has taken effect.

We are reaching out to address questions our department has received related to implementation.

Injured Patient and Families Compensation Fund (IPFCF)

Wisconsin Act 17, the legislation that created the APRN credential, made changes to requirements for IPFCF participation. Information regarding the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) and the IPFCF, including a frequently asked questions page, can be found on the OCI website located here: [OCI Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund \(IPFCF\) - Overview](#)

Malpractice Coverage

Under Act 17, no person may practice advanced practice registered nursing unless he or she at all times has in effect malpractice liability insurance coverage. Malpractice coverage can be personal liability coverage in the amounts specified for health care providers under s. 655.23 (4) or coverage under a group liability policy providing individual coverage for the person in the amounts specified under s. 655.23 (4). This provision previously applied to Wisconsin APNPs.

Licensure Reminder for current RNs:

Under Act 17, anyone who uses the title of Nurse Practitioner (NP), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) or Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) **MUST** be credentialed as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in the State of Wisconsin. Act 17 does provide a grace period which allows RNs who intend to seek APRN licensure to continue to use these titles for a 12-month period. However, Act 17 requires licensure as an APRN to make use of these titles – regardless of certification from a national certifying body.

The application for an APRN license is available. Please apply as soon as practicable.

Under Act 17, the current license of anyone who is an APNP or CNM as of August 30, 2026 converted automatically to an APRN on September 1, 2026. Current APNPs do not need to apply to become APRNs.

Renewal for former APNP

Former APNPs will not need to renew their licenses this year. The legislation did not specifically address the established expiration date for former APNPs and this has, understandably, led to some confusion. All APRNs licenses will not expire

until March 1, 2028. In early 2028, you will renew your APRN concurrently with your RN credential. All subsequent renewals will occur March 1 of each even-numbered year.

Qualification for Independent Practice:

If you are seeking qualification for independent practice, the APRN page contains the link to the form for reporting hours. The APRN page is located here: [DSPS Advanced Practice Registered Nurse](#). The form for reporting hours required for qualification for independent practice is located here: [APRN Hours Verification Form - Applicant: Wisconsin DSPS Forms](#)

An APRN will need to attest to 7,680 total clinical hours required for independent practice eligibility:

- **At least** 3,840* of these clinical hours must be clinical hours of advanced practice registered nursing practice in the person's recognized role, while working with a physician or dentist who was immediately available for consultation and accepted responsibility for the actions of the advanced practice registered nurse during those 3,840 hours of practice. **Please note: any hours in excess of 3,840 in this category can be applied towards the 7,680 total clinical hours, up to the total amount.**
 - The clinical hours in this category need not all be completed with a single physician or dentist, provided that each physician or dentist "was immediately available for consultation and accepted responsibility for the actions of the advanced practice registered nurse" during all clinical hours worked with that physician or dentist counted towards this requirement.
- **Up to** 3,840** of these clinical hours may be hours of professional nursing in a clinical setting, including hours completed as a requirement for nursing school (but not a graduate or post-graduate level education program).

*At least 24 months must have elapsed since the applicant began practicing advanced practice registered nursing in that recognized role. **At least 24 months must have elapsed since the applicant first began completing the clinical hours required by a nursing program.

Both categories of clinical hours require that at least 24 months have elapsed since the independent practice applicant began completing the clinical hours in the relevant category. These requirements simply mean that in addition to fulfilling the applicable clinical hours threshold, the independent practice applicant must have also attained 2 years of experience working in that clinical hours category before he or she can count the clinical hours towards independent practice eligibility.

Birth Plans:

CNMs are required to submit a birth plan to the Board of Nursing for review prior to attending births outside of a hospital setting. This will be submitted as an amendment in LicenseE. When logged into your LicenseE account, you will see "amendments" as an option on the top of the page. Click on "amendments" and follow the instructions to upload and submit your plan for review.

DEA Registration

All current APNP credential holders who are converted to APRN on September 1, 2026, will retain the license number currently associated with their APNP. You can update your registration, if necessary, here: [CSA Registration Tools: Login](#) Questions related to DEA registration need to be directed to the DEA. You may telephone the DEA at 800-882-9539.

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