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Board of Nursing Allows Expanded Role for 4-Year RNs as Clinical Faculty

At the urging of WHA and their partners in nursing leadership and education, the Wisconsin Board of Nursing has revised the state's administrative rules for nursing school faculty to allow nurses with a bachelor's degree to serve as clinical faculty for nursing students. This week, Governor Evers announced his approval of an emergency rule that will make the policy effective immediately.

In April of 2025, WHA Senior Vice President of Workforce and Clinical Practice Ann Zenk alerted the Wisconsin Board of Nursing of recently adopted national nursing school accreditation standards that allow for this expanded role. The Governor's signature on the Emergency Rule approved by the Board of Nursing means that nursing schools across the state can begin utilizing this important Wisconsin advantage to expand nursing school class sizes and allow more interested and qualified candidates to enter this career pathway.

The impetus for enacting this emergency rule originated with a policy change WHA urged the Governor's Task Force on the Health Care Workforce to include in their recommendations in a June 25, 2024 letter.

In a letter following adoption of this emergency rule, WHA thanked Gov. Tony Evers and Board of Nursing Chair Jennifer Malak this week, noting "Wisconsin's high-quality health care system is reliant on our exceptional nursing workforce. Wisconsin hospitals and health systems, and their partners in state government and education, have a great tradition of collaborating to keep Wisconsin moving forward. Thank you for your partnership in opening the door to a nursing career for more students in Wisconsin."

Contact WHA's Ann Zenk with questions about the revised Board of Nursing rules, or any other workforce issue.

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EDUCATION EVENTS

Jul. 27, 2026

EMTALA Regulatory Series: Part Three

Aug. 4, 2026

Seeing the Real Market: Using Claims Enhanced Intelligence to Make Better Strategy, Access, and Growth Decisions

Aug. 18, 2026

Culture College – Breakthrough Strategies for Creating and Sustaining a Magnetic Culture

