

CHAPTER 621
ADVANCED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONERS
[Prior to 8/26/87, Nursing Board[590] Ch 7]
[Prior to 6/11/25, see Nursing Board[655] Ch 7]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 6/4/30

481—621.1(17A,124,147,152) Definitions.

“Advanced registered nurse practitioner” or *“ARNP”* means a person who is currently licensed as a registered nurse under Iowa Code chapter 152 or 152E who is licensed by the board as an advanced registered nurse practitioner.

“Asynchronous store-and-forward transmission” means the collection of a patient’s relevant health information and the subsequent transmission of the data from an originating site to a health care provider at a distant site without the presence of the patient.

“Board” as used in this chapter means the Iowa board of nursing.

“Collaboration” is the process whereby an ARNP and physician jointly manage the care of a client.

“Controlled substance” means a drug in Schedules II through V of subchapter II of Iowa Code chapter 124.

“Cross-coverage” means a licensee who engages in a remote evaluation of a patient, without in-person contact, at the request of another licensed health care provider who has established a proper practitioner-patient relationship with the patient.

“Dispense” means to provide a prescription drug to a patient for self-use outside of the ARNP’s practice location. “Dispense” does not include administration.

“Licensee” means an individual licensed by the board as an advanced registered nurse practitioner.

“National professional certification organization” means the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, the American Midwifery Certification Board, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists, the National Certification Corporation, and the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board.

“On call” means a licensee is available, where necessary, to attend to the urgent and follow-up needs of a patient for whom the licensee has temporarily assumed responsibility, as designated by the patient’s primary care licensee or other health care provider of record.

“Opioid” means a drug that produces an agonist effect on opioid receptors and is indicated or used for the treatment of pain.

“Prescription monitoring program database” or *“PMP database”* means a centralized database of reportable controlled substance prescriptions dispensed to patients and includes data access logs, security tracking information, and records of each individual who requests prescription monitoring program (PMP) information as operated by the board of pharmacy.

“Telehealth” means the practice of nursing using electronic audiovisual communications and information technologies or other means, including interactive audio with asynchronous store-and-forward transmission, between a licensee in one location and a patient in another location with or without an intervening health care provider. Telehealth includes asynchronous store-and-forward technologies, remote monitoring, and real-time interactive services, including teleradiology and telepathology. Telehealth, for the purposes of this rule, does not include the provision of nursing services only through an audio-only telephone, email messages, facsimile transmissions, or U.S. mail or other parcel service, or any combination thereof.

[ARC 9164C, IAB 4/30/25, effective 6/4/25; Editorial change: IAC Supplement 6/11/25]

481—621.2(152) Requirements for licensure as an ARNP.

621.2(1) Qualifications. An applicant for an ARNP license shall:

- a. Hold an active unrestricted license as a registered nurse in accordance with 481—Chapter 617.

b. Graduate from an accredited graduate or postgraduate advanced practice educational program in one of the following roles, except as provided by subrule 621.2(2):

- (1) Certified nurse-midwife.
- (2) Certified registered nurse anesthetist.
- (3) Certified nurse practitioner.
- (4) Clinical nurse specialist.

c. Hold current certification issued by a national professional certification organization as a certified nurse-midwife or certified registered nurse anesthetist, or as a certified nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist in at least one of the following population foci:

- (1) Women's health/gender-related.
- (2) Family (individual across the lifespan).
- (3) Psychiatric mental health.
- (4) Adult/gerontology.
- (5) Pediatrics.
- (6) Neonatal.

621.2(2) Exception. An applicant who has completed a formal advanced practice educational program but has not graduated from an accredited graduate or postgraduate advanced practice educational program may be licensed as an ARNP provided that the applicant possesses a current certification from a national professional certification organization as described in paragraph 621.2(1) "c." This exception is intended to allow for the grandfathering of ARNPs who completed educational programs before the board required graduation from an accredited graduate or postgraduate advanced practice educational program.

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481—621.3(17A,147,152) Application process.

621.3(1) An applicant shall submit to the board:

- a. An ARNP application for each population focus.
- b. A dated copy of the applicant's current advanced level certification issued by the appropriate national professional certification organization.
- c. If the applicant is not licensed as a registered nurse in Iowa, verification of an active registered nurse license in another state recognized for licensure in this state pursuant to the nurse licensure compact contained in Iowa Code chapter 152E.
- d. A nonrefundable license fee of \$81.

621.3(2) The applicant shall request that official transcripts be sent directly to the board from the educational program verifying the coursework, date of completion of the program, and the degree conferred.

621.3(3) The executive director of the board or the executive director's designee has the authority to determine if all requirements have been met for licensure of the applicant as an ARNP. If all requirements have been met:

- a. The applicant will be issued a license and a certificate to practice as an ARNP that clearly denotes the applicant's name, title, and population focus, and the expiration date of the license.
- b. The expiration date of the ARNP license will be the same as the expiration date of the applicant's license to practice as a registered nurse.

621.3(4) Licensure completion. An applicant shall complete the ARNP licensure process within 12 months from the start of the application. The board reserves the right to destroy incomplete application materials after 12 months.

621.3(5) Renewal of licensure. An ARNP license may be renewed beginning 60 days prior to the license expiration date and ending 30 days after the expiration date. To renew, a licensee shall submit the information required by subrule 621.3(1). The expiration date assigned to a renewed ARNP license is the same as the expiration date of the licensee's license to practice as a registered nurse.

621.3(6) Inactive status. Failure to renew an ARNP license within 30 days after its expiration results in an inactive ARNP license.

- a. Continuing to work as an ARNP with an inactive ARNP license may result in disciplinary action.

b. To reactivate the license, the licensee must reactivate the underlying license to practice as a registered nurse, if required, and complete the license renewal process for the ARNP license.

621.3(7) License denial. Rule 481—617.9(17A,272C) governs the denial of an application for an ARNP license.

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481—621.4(17A,147,152) Advanced nursing practice.

621.4(1) An ARNP shall practice within the ARNP's respective population foci and practice in accordance with the applicable standard of care as described in guidelines published by national professional associations or other reputable sources.

621.4(2) An ARNP must maintain current certification with a national professional certification organization at all times while the ARNP license is active.

621.4(3) An ARNP licensed by the board may prescribe, administer, or dispense prescription drugs or devices, including controlled substances, within the ARNP's role and population foci and consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

621.4(4) An ARNP has the authority to practice to the full extent of the ARNP's license, education, and experience in the ARNP's respective population foci. An ARNP may:

- a.* Assess health status;
- b.* Obtain a relevant health and medical history;
- c.* Perform physical examinations;
- d.* Order preventive and diagnostic procedures;
- e.* Formulate a differential diagnosis;
- f.* Develop a treatment plan;
- g.* Develop a patient education plan;
- h.* Receive third-party reimbursement;
- i.* Maintain hospital privileges; and
- j.* Promote health maintenance.

621.4(5) Supervision of fluoroscopy. An ARNP is permitted to provide direct supervision in the use of fluoroscopic X-ray equipment, as defined in rule 641—38.2(136C).

a. The ARNP shall provide direct supervision of fluoroscopy pursuant to the following provisions:

(1) Completion of an educational course including content in radiation physics, radiobiology, radiological safety and radiation management applicable to the use of fluoroscopy, and maintenance of documentation verifying successful completion.

(2) Collaboration, as needed, as defined in rule 481—621.1(17A,124,147,152).

(3) Compliance with facility policies and procedures.

b. The ARNP shall maintain documentation of the initial educational course.

c. The initial education requirements are subject to audit by the board pursuant to 481—subrule 619.2(10).

621.4(6) Only a person currently licensed as an advanced registered nurse practitioner may use that title and the letters "ARNP" after the person's name.

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481—621.5(17A,147,152) Standards of practice for treating patients. An ARNP shall follow the standards of practice for the ARNP's respective population foci. Prior to treating a patient, an ARNP shall:

621.5(1) Establish a patient-provider relationship.

621.5(2) Perform and document the following, or have access to the patient's health records where all of the following have been documented by other providers in the care team:

- a.* Chief complaint;
- b.* Pertinent health history;
- c.* A focused assessment;
- d.* Diagnosis; and
- e.* Plan of treatment.

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481—621.6(17A,124,147,152,272C) Standards of practice for controlled substances.

621.6(1) An ARNP who prescribes or administers a controlled substance shall:

- a. Review health history, including but not limited to a personal and family substance abuse risk assessment, or the documented rationale for not performing the assessment.
- b. Ensure the health record includes documentation of the presence of one or more recognized indications for the use of a controlled substance.
- c. Utilize a treatment agreement if continuously prescribing one or more controlled substances.
- d. Provide ongoing education of the risks of using a controlled substance, and information regarding addiction, physical dependence, substance abuse, and tolerance, or document the rationale for not providing the education.
- e. Maintain an active Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration and an active controlled substances Act (CSA) registration to dispense, prescribe, or administer controlled substances, when required by the DEA and the board of pharmacy.
- f. Not prescribe a controlled substance to the ARNP's self or to a family member unless the prescribing occurs in a clinical setting when an emergency situation arises and when there is no other qualified practitioner available to the patient.

621.6(2) The board may discipline an ARNP for prescribing opioids in dosage amounts that exceed what would be prescribed by a reasonably prudent ARNP in a similar practice.

621.6(3) An ARNP who has prescribed opioids to a patient during the renewal cycle is required to complete a minimum of two contact hours of continuing education regarding the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guideline for prescribing opioids for chronic pain, including recommendations on limitations on dosages and the length of prescriptions, risk factors for abuse, and nonopioid and nonpharmacologic therapy options, as a condition of license renewal every three years. These hours may count towards the 36 contact hours required for license renewal. The ARNP shall maintain documentation of these hours, which may be subject to audit.

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481—621.7(124) Use of the prescription monitoring program.

621.7(1) Prior to the prescribing or dispensing of an opioid by an ARNP, the ARNP or the ARNP's authorized delegate shall query the PMP database and the ARNP shall review the patient's information contained in the PMP database.

621.7(2) This rule does not apply to an ARNP when treating a patient who is receiving inpatient hospice care or long-term residential facility care.

621.7(3) This rule does not apply to an ARNP who issues a medication order for an opioid to be administered to a patient at a hospital or clinic.

621.7(4) An ARNP is responsible for understanding the board of pharmacy's rules governing use of the prescription monitoring program in 481—Chapter 556.

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481—621.8(152) Prescribing epinephrine auto-injectors, bronchodilator canisters, bronchodilator canisters and spacers, or opioid antagonists in the name of a facility or school.

621.8(1) An ARNP may issue a prescription for one or more epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of a facility as defined in Iowa Code section 135.185(1), a school district, or an accredited nonpublic school.

621.8(2) An ARNP may issue a prescription for one or more bronchodilator canisters or bronchodilator canisters and spacers in the name of a school district or an accredited nonpublic school.

621.8(3) An ARNP may issue a prescription for one or more opioid antagonists in the name of a school district.

621.8(4) An ARNP who prescribes epinephrine auto-injectors, bronchodilator canisters, bronchodilator canisters and spacers, or opioid antagonists in the name of an authorized facility as defined in Iowa Code section 135.185(1), a school district, or an accredited nonpublic school, to be maintained

for use pursuant to Iowa Code sections 135.185, 135.190, 280.16, and 280.16A, provided the ARNP has acted reasonably and in good faith, is not be liable for any injury arising from the provision, administration, or assistance in the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector, bronchodilator canister, bronchodilator canister and spacer, or opioid antagonist.

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481—621.9(152) Standards of practice for telehealth.

621.9(1) *Telehealth permitted.* A licensee may, in accordance with all applicable laws and rules, provide health care services to a patient through telehealth.

621.9(2) *License required.* An advanced registered nurse practitioner who provides services through telehealth to a patient physically located in Iowa must be licensed by the board. A licensee who provides services through telehealth to a patient physically located in another state shall be subject to the laws and jurisdiction of the state where the patient is physically located.

621.9(3) *Standard of care.*

a. A licensee who provides services through telehealth is held to the same standard of care as is applicable to in-person settings. A licensee shall not perform any service via telehealth unless the same standard of care can be achieved as if the service was performed in person.

b. Prior to initiating contact with a patient for the purpose of providing services to the patient using telehealth, a licensee shall:

- (1) Review the patient's history and all relevant medical records; and
- (2) Determine as to each unique patient encounter whether the licensee will be able to provide the same standard of care using telehealth as would be provided if the services were provided in person.

621.9(4) *Scope of practice.* A licensee who provides services through telehealth must practice within the licensee's respective population foci and ensure the services provided are consistent with the licensee's scope of practice, education, training, and experience.

621.9(5) *Practitioner-patient relationship.*

a. Prior to providing services through telehealth, the licensee shall first establish a practitioner-patient relationship. A practitioner-patient relationship is established when:

- (1) The person with a health-related matter seeks assistance from the licensee;
- (2) The licensee agrees to provide services; and
- (3) The person agrees to be treated, or the person's legal guardian or legal representative agrees to the person's being treated, by the licensee regardless of whether there has been a previous in-person encounter between the licensee and the person.

b. A practitioner-patient relationship can be established through an in-person encounter, consultation with another licensee or health care provider, or telehealth encounter.

c. Notwithstanding paragraphs 621.9(5) "a" and "b," services may be provided through telehealth without first establishing a practitioner-patient relationship in the following settings or circumstances:

- (1) Institutional settings;
- (2) Licensed or certified nursing facilities, residential care facilities, intermediate care facilities, assisted living facilities, and hospice settings;
- (3) In response to an emergency or disaster;
- (4) Informal consultations with another health care provider performed by a licensee outside of the context of a contractual relationship, or on an irregular or infrequent basis, without the expectation or exchange of direct or indirect compensation;
- (5) Episodic consultations by a specialist located in another jurisdiction who provides consultation services upon request to a licensee;
- (6) A substitute licensee acting on behalf and at the designation of an absent licensee or other health care provider in the same specialty on an on-call or cross-coverage basis; or
- (7) When a sexually transmitted disease has been diagnosed in a patient, a licensee prescribes or dispenses antibiotics to the patient's named sexual partner(s) for the treatment of the sexually transmitted disease as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

621.9(6) *Consent to telehealth.* Prior to providing services via telehealth, the licensee shall obtain consent from the patient, or the patient's legal guardian or legal representative, to receive services via telehealth.

621.9(7) *Technology.* A licensee providing services through telehealth shall utilize technology that is secure and compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, PL 104-191, August 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 1936, and any amendments as of October 30, 2024. The technology must be of sufficient quality, size, resolution, and clarity such that the licensee can safely and effectively provide the telehealth services and abide by the applicable standard of care.

621.9(8) *Prescriptions.* A licensee providing services through telehealth may issue a prescription to a patient as long as the issuance of such prescription is consistent with the standard of care applicable to the in-person setting.

621.9(9) *Records.* A licensee who provides services through telehealth shall maintain a record of the care provided to the patient. Such records shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, standards of care for recordkeeping, confidentiality, and disclosure of a patient's medical record.

621.9(10) *Follow-up care.* A licensee who provides services through telehealth shall refer a patient for follow-up care when required by the standard of care.

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