

16.12.2.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. Definitions beginning with the letter A:

- (1) **“actually engaged in nursing”**, employed, engaged, or holding a position which requires licensure or in which the maintenance of licensure as a nurse is expected;
- (2) **“administration of medications”**, a process whereby a prescribed drug or biological agent is given to a patient/client by a person licensed or certified by the board to administer medications;
- (3) **“advanced practice nurse”**, a master’s prepared registered nurse who has completed a program of study in a specialty area in an accredited nursing program, taken a certification examination in the same area, and been granted a license to practice as an advanced practice nurse with an expanded scope of practice; subcategories include certified nurse practitioner (CNP), certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) and clinical nurse specialist (CNS);
- (4) **“affidavit”**, a sworn written statement made to affirm a statement of fact;
- (5) **“approval”**, the review and acceptance of a specific activity;
- (6) **“approval agency”**, agency, institution or organization with the authorization to award CE credit;
- (7) **“approved equivalent”**, a program reviewed and accepted by the board of nursing as meeting necessary regulatory/statutory requirements;
- (8) **“assessment”**, the review and interpretation by a licensed individual of specific data necessary to determine the patient/client’s care and treatment needs; (also see data collection);
- (9) **“assignment of nursing activity”**, assignment of nursing activity involves appointing or designating another licensed nurse or assistive personnel that is consistent with his/her scope of practice (licensed person) or role description (unlicensed person).
- (10) **“audit”**, an examination and verification of CE and practice documents.

B. Definitions beginning with the letter B:

- (1) **“basic nursing education”**, the scholastic route to initial licensure;
- (2) **“board”**, the New Mexico board of nursing.

C. Definitions beginning with the letter C:

- (1) **“certificate”**, a legal document granting permission to an unlicensed person to perform specific functions generally considered the practice of nursing under the direction of a licensed nurse;
- (2) **“collaboration”**, practice in conjunction with another health professional;
- (3) **“competency”**, competency in nursing is the ability to perform skillfully and proficiently the role of the licensee; the role encompasses essential knowledge, judgment, attitudes, values, skills and abilities, which are varied in range and complexity; competency is a dynamic concept and is based on educational training, preparation, and expertise;
- (4) **“consultation”**, to communicate regularly to set goals and objectives and to review and document outcomes;
- (5) **“contact hours”**, a unit of measurement to describe an approved, organized learning experience;
- (6) **“continuing education”**, planned learning experiences beyond a basic nursing education program; these experiences are designed to promote the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes for the enhancement of nursing practice, thus improving health care to the public;
- (7) **“continuing education unit (CEU)”**, ten contact hours of participation in an organized CE experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction.

D. Definitions beginning with the letter D:

- (1) **“data collection”**, the process of obtaining information, material, fact or clinical observations which will be used in the assessment process; data collection is not limited to licensed individuals;
- (2) **“delegation”**, the transferring to a competent individual the authority to perform a selected nursing task in a selected situation. The nurse retains accountability of the delegation;
- (3) **“department of public safety”**, the New Mexico department of public safety or other state’s department of public safety;
- (4) **“direct supervision for graduate permit holders”**, at a minimum, the person responsible for the direct supervision must be in the facility or on the unit with the graduate permit holder observing, directing and evaluating the performance of the permit holder; the supervisor must not be engaged in other activities that would prevent them from providing direct supervision.

E. Definitions beginning with the letter E:

- (1) **“educational institution”**, refers to an institution within the educational system which is organized and accredited for teaching and study (university, high school, post-secondary, approved area vocational institution);
- (2) **“eligible for graduation”**, individual who has met all the requirements of an educational program.

F. “Final transcript”, an official record of course work and grades, issued by a school, which indicates date of program completion and certificate or degree awarded.

G. “Generally recognized organization”, an association of nurses with common goals and concerns expressed through structured by laws. Rules and regulations, and whose recognition derives from both the profession and the public.

H. Definitions H - Reserved

I. Definitions beginning with the letter I:

- (1) **“inactive list”**, compilation of those licenses that are in good standing but not current;
- (2) **“initial license”**, the process of achieving the legal privilege to practice within a professional category upon the completion of all educational requirements and the successful writing of the national licensing examination;
- (3) **“institution of higher education”**, college or university.

J. “Jurisdiction”, the licensure or regulatory authoritative body for nursing within a specific geographic area for which there is endorsement in New Mexico.

K. Definitions K - Reserved

L. Definitions beginning with the letter L:

- (1) **“lapsed status”**, a license which was not renewed by the expiration date on the license;
- (2) **“legal guardian”**, a person lawfully invested with the power, and charged with the duty, of taking care of the person and managing the property and rights of another person who is considered incapable of administering his own affairs;
- (3) **“letter of authorization”**, a document issued by the board which authorizes an individual to practice nursing in New Mexico under the auspices of an approved preceptorship for an advanced nursing expanded scope of practice prescriptive authority or for an advanced practice nurse from a compact state;
- (4) **“license”**, a legal document granting an individual the privilege and authority to engage in the practice of an occupation/profession;
- (5) **“licensure by endorsement”**, the process of achieving the legal privilege to practice within a professional category, in New Mexico, by individuals licensed in other jurisdictions, upon fulfilling all requirements set by this state.

M. Definitions beginning with the letter M:

- (1) **“medical emergency”**, a situation resulting from a disaster in which the number of persons requiring nursing care exceeds the availability of New Mexico registered nurses or licensed practical nurses;
- (2) **“monitoring system”**, a mechanism whereby programs may be approved for CE hours within a geographic area;
- (3) **“must”**, a requirement.

N. Definitions beginning with the letter N:

- (1) **“national licensing examination”**, examination for licensure as provided by the national council of state boards of nursing, inc.;
- (2) **“nationwide criminal history record”**, information concerning a person’s arrests, indictments or other formal criminal charges and any dispositions arising there from, including convictions, dismissals, acquittals, sentencing and correctional supervision, collected by criminal justice agencies and stored in the computerized databases of the federal bureau of investigation, the national law enforcement telecommunications systems, the department of public safety or the repositories of criminal history information of other states;
- (3) **“nationwide criminal history screening”**, a criminal history background investigation of an applicant for licensure by examination or endorsement through the use of fingerprints reviewed by the department of public safety and submitted to the federal bureau of investigation, resulting in the generation of a nationwide criminal history record for that applicant.

O. Definitions O - Reserved

P. Definitions beginning with the letter P:

- (1) **“permit-to-practice for GCNSs”**, a document conferring the privilege to practice as a graduate clinical nurse specialist, at a specific place of employment, under the direct supervision of a licensed CNS, CNP or physician; such permits will carry set expiration dates, are not renewable and are not transferable;
- (2) **“permit-to-practice for GNs and GPNS”**, a document conferring the privilege to practice nursing at a specific place of employment, under direct supervision of a RN only; such permits will carry set expiration dates, are not renewable or transferable;
- (3) **“permit-to-practice for GNP”**, a document conferring the privilege to practice as a graduate nurse practitioner, at a specific place of employment, under the direct supervision of a physician or a certified nurse practitioner; direct supervision of a physician, licensed CNP or CNS is required for prescription writing; such permit will carry set expiration dates, are not renewable and are not transferable;
- (4) **“permit-to-practice for GRNAs”**, a document conferring the privilege to administer anesthesia to any person, as a GRNA, at a specific place of employment, functioning in an interdependent role under the direction of and in collaboration with a licensed physician, osteopathic physician, dentist or podiatrist licensed in New Mexico; such permits will carry set expiration dates, and are not renewable or transferable;
- (5) **“post-graduate program”**, any specialized knowledge and skills sought after completion of a basic nursing educational program which does not necessarily lead to an advanced degree;
- (6) **“preceptor”**, an individual at or above the level of licensure that an assigned student is seeking, who may serve as a teacher, mentor, role model or supervisor in a clinical setting;
- (7) **“prescriptive authority”**, the power to determine the need for drugs, immunizing agents or devices; selecting the remedy and writing a prescription;
- (8) **“private practice”**, employment status of an individual nurse who is self-employed.

Q. Definitions Q - Reserved

R. Definitions beginning with the letter R:

(1) **“reactivation”**, the process of making current a license which has been in abeyance as a result of failure to comply with the necessary renewal requirements; this process does not involve board action at any juncture;

(2) **“recognized national or state institutions/organizations”**, institutions and organizations recognized as providers of CE for nurses;

(3) **“reinstatement”**, the process whereby a license which has been subject to revocation or suspension, is returned to its former status by individual board action; this process always involves board action, and requires filing of a form and payment of the reinstatement fee;

(4) **“relicensure”**, the process of renewal, reactivation or reinstatement of a New Mexico nursing license;

(5) **“refresher course”**, a formal program that has both didactic and clinical components designed to prepare a nurse who has been out of practice to re-enter the profession. ~~for a graduate nurse who has not successfully passed the national licensing examination.~~

S. Definitions beginning with the letter S:

(1) **“state approved program”**, a basic nursing education program approved or accredited by a state board of nursing or a nationally recognized nursing education accreditation body;

(2) **“shall”**, mandatory; a requirement;

(3) **“should”**, a suggestion or recommendation; not a requirement;

(4) **“sponsor/provider”**, any person, organization, agency, or institution which organizes, develops, implements, and evaluates a CE activity;

(5) **“supervision/direction”**, initial verification of a person’s knowledge and skills in the performance of a specific function or activity followed by periodic observation, direction and evaluation of that person’s knowledge and skills as related to the specific functions or activity;

(6) **“surrogate”**, an individual, other than a patient’s agent or guardian, authorized under the uniform health-care decisions act to make a health-care decision for the patient.

T. “Temporary license”, a nonrenewable, nontransferable document indicating a legal privilege to practice as a RN, LPN, CNP, CNS or CRNA, on a conditional basis for a specific period of time.

U. “Uniform Licensing Act”, New Mexico statute which provides procedures to be utilized in disciplinary proceedings.

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