What is the APPN Advisory Committee?

The Idaho Nursing Practice Act establishes an advisory committee to the Board on issues related to the advanced practice of nursing of certified nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists and nurse practitioners. The 5-member committee includes 2 APPNs, 2 physicians and 1 pharmacist all appointed by the Board to serve 2-year terms. The committee meets quarterly in person or by phone, and responds to questions posed by the Board, considers non-routine applications for APPN licensure and applications for prescriptive authorization, reviews complaints and investigation outcomes, and recommends the scope of practice of APPNs using national standards as a guideline.

With implementation of the national APRN Consensus Model, the Board anticipates that the membership of and charge to the committee will change to reflect recommendations in the Model.

Persons interested in appointment to the APPN Advisory Committee should contact the Board of Nursing at (208) 334-3110 or Judy Nagel at: Judith.Nagel@ibn.idaho.gov.

I’ve been licensed for a while, must I maintain national certification?

Current national certification from a board-recognized certifying organization continues to be a requirement for Advanced Practice Licensure in Idaho. Licensure renewal requires that you attest to current certification on your renewal application and include the dates of certification. The Board will audit APPN licensees for compliance with this requirement. If selected for the audit, you will be required to provide evidence of your current certification to the Board.
How will the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation affect Advance Practice Nurses in Idaho?

The Consensus Model for APRN Regulation is a national model for licensure, accreditation, certification and education of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. In October 2008 the Idaho Board of Nursing endorsed the Consensus Model and adopted strategies for full implementation by 2015. Idaho is well positioned for the 2015 timeline which will require limited statutory and rule changes for full implementation. Anticipated changes will address: a requirement for master/graduate-level education for APPN licensure; modification of titles, abbreviations and designations; redefinition of APRN Advisory Committee membership to include representation from all four APPN roles and clarification in how prescriptive authorization is determined. Changes will include grandfathering provisions for APPNs licensed prior to 2015 who may not meet newly established criteria.

I heard that by 2015, all APRNs will need to have a DNP to be licensed.

The Board of Nursing intends to require graduate level education for licensure as an advanced practice nurse, to include a masters or higher degree with a major in nursing. Nationally accredited graduate/postgraduate APPN programs, regardless of the degree awarded, should meet Idaho’s requirements.

If my husband is sick can I prescribe medications for him? Or what about prescribing for myself?

Nothing in the statute or rules prohibits an APPN with prescribing authority from prescribing legend drugs for family members or themselves as long as proper assessment, evaluation and management takes place. However, prescribing, dispensing or selling any drug classified as a controlled substance to a family member or to yourself is grounds for discipline as defined in Administrative Rules of the Board (IDAPA 23.01.01.316.01). A Family member is defined as “the licensee’s spouse, child (biological, adopted, or foster), parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild or the same relation by marriage”.

What is acceptable CE for purposes of licensure renewal?

Renewal of APPN license requires completion of at least 30 contact hours of continuing education during each previous 2-year licensure period. Ten of these hours must be pharmacology-related content to maintain prescriptive authorization. The provider of CE must be a nationally recognized nursing organization, an accredited academic institution or a provider of continuing education recognized either by a board of nursing or a regulatory body of another discipline. CE content must relate to your practice. Being a presenter of approved CE activity is also acceptable. In addition, up to three contact hours may be claimed for related professional activities such as research, published material, teaching, peer review or clinical precepting, among others.

What is IDACARE and who must provide information to the IDACARE databases?

IDACARE, implemented following passage of the Idaho Patient Freedom of Information Act of 1998, is an electronic database that profiles selected healthcare providers, including APPNs, physicians, chiropractors and others. The database includes information about education, practice specialty, malpractice and board disciplinary action and other pertinent information required by law. Advanced practice nurses are required to provide information to IDACARE upon initial licensure and at the time of each biennial licensure renewal. To update your IDACARE profile, access the IDACARE Website at: www.idacare.org/update/userentry.cfm. Enter your license number in caps, i.e. RNA -000, NP-999A, and your password (your date of birth, i.e. 9/20/72) and review your profile. Enter changes and click on “Update Your License Information Record” and exit the form. Questions? Contact the Board office.