

Board of Nursing – State of Idaho



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Rule Docket: IDAPA 23-0101-1402, Continued Competency Requirements for Renewal of an Active License

Question: I have recently reviewed the proposed licensure renewal requirements and was wondering if I could get clarity to the national certification requirement. What organizations will or won't be recognized as acceptable grantors of a national certification? Will there be any certifications from acknowledge grantors that will not be recognized? A definition of what is considered a recognized national certification by the State board of Nursing would be very helpful.

Response: In drafting the proposed rules, the Board purposefully did not create a list of recognized organizations, but instead deferred to the qualifier indicated in the rule that the organization be national in scope with the expectation that the certification is related to the practice of the nurse submitting certification as evidence of demonstrated continued competence.

In addition, the Board's expectation is that the organization granting the certification should adhere to accepted quality standards for the profession/specialty. Accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accrediting branch of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA), the national standard setting organization for credentialing groups including certification boards, licensing boards and associations, is a clear indicator of a certifying organization's adherence to accepted standards. Other indicators might include, but are not limited to, approval and/or recognition by another Board of Nursing, the regulatory board of another discipline, or by the Idaho Board of Nursing.

Question: Does the Board consider active practice as being limited to those individuals working in clinical settings in supervisory or non-supervisory positions? Does the DON, nurse consultant, or health facility surveyor participate in "active" nursing practice? Would you consider adding a definition of active practice, such as the rule below from the State of Washington?

The Commission defines "active practice" as *engagement in paid, unpaid, or volunteer activity performing acts requiring a nursing license as described in RCW 18.79.040. This may include working as a nursing administrator, nursing quality manager, nursing policy officer, public health nurse, parish nurse, home health nurse, nursing educator, nursing consultant, nursing regulator or any practice requiring nursing knowledge and a nursing license.* In other words, active practice is NOT limited to the provision of direct patient care. The Commission recognizes that nurses use their nursing knowledge in a variety of positions and roles.

Response: The Board of Nursing does not limit active practice to include only those individuals working in clinical settings in supervisory or non-supervisory positions. The Board recognizes that nurses work in a variety of settings and in numerous capacities in which they apply their unique knowledge and skills. The "practice of nursing" is defined in the Idaho Nursing Practice Act to mean "assisting individuals or groups of individuals to promote, maintain or restore optimal health throughout the life process by assessing and evaluating their health status, planning and implementing a strategy of care to accomplish defined goals and evaluating responses to care and treatment". (Idaho Code 54-1404(6)). Further, Article III(3) of the Nurse Licensure Compact, codified in Idaho Code §54-1418, indicates "...the practice of nursing is not limited to patient care, but shall include all nursing practice as defined by the state practice laws of a party state".

Administrative Rules of the Board provide further clarification, indicating "in addition to providing hands-on nursing care, licensed registered nurses work and serve in a broad range of capacities including, but not limited to, regulation, delegation, management, administration, teaching and case management". (IDAPA 23.01.01.401)

The Board has discussed the issue of what constitutes the practice of nursing as well as where the practice of nursing occurs, e.g. where the recipient of care is located vs. where the provider is located. The question you raise is consistent with the Board's conversation that current language may be insufficient to provide necessary clarity given the evolution of nursing practice and delivery of care. Your request to add "a definition of active practice, such as the rule...from the State of Washington" will be presented to the Board at their next meeting for consideration.

The Mission of the Idaho Board of Nursing is to regulate nursing practice and education for the purpose of safeguarding the public health, safety and welfare.