

Related Definitions.

- ◆ **“Nurse practitioner”** means a registered nurse who possesses additional preparation and skills in physical diagnosis, psycho-social assessment, and management of health-illness needs in primary health care, and who has been prepared in a program conforming to board standards as specified in section 1484.
- ◆ **“Primary health care”** is that which occurs when a consumer makes contact with a healthcare provider who assumes responsibility and accountability for the continuity of health care regardless of the presence or absence of disease.
- ◆ **“Clinically competent”** means that one possesses and exercises the degree of learning, skill, care and experience ordinarily possessed and exercised by a member of the appropriate discipline in clinical practice.
- ◆ **“holding oneself out”** means to use the title of nurse-practitioner.

The RN who has met the requirements for certification (holding out), may be known as a nurse practitioner and may place the letters “RN, NP” after his or her name alone or in combination with other letters or words identifying categories of specialization, including but not limited to adult, pediatric, obstetrical-gynecological and family nurse practitioner. **The “holding out” as a nurse practitioner and using the title “RN, NP” does not confer broad practicing parameters.** The nurse practitioner must meet requirements for clinical competency as defined.

Methods for NP Certification.

1. *Completing an approved nurse practitioner education program.*

Nurse Practitioner Education Programs.

The California approved NP programs prepare nurse practitioners according to the standards of education (CCR 1484). The programs may be full-time or part-time and are not less than 30 semester units (45 quarter units) which includes theory and supervised clinical practice. At least 12 semester units or 18 quarter units of the program are in supervised clinical practice. The duration of clinical experience and the setting is such that the students receive intensive experience in performing the treatment procedures essential to the category/specialty for which the student is being prepared e.g. Adult, Pediatric, Family, Ob/Gyn.

All the approved NP programs are affiliated with academic institutions, which offer one or more educational options certificate, masters and post masters (see school list). The nurse practitioner programs prepare students in the following categories and/or specialties: family planning, family nurse practitioner, geriatric nurse practitioner, Women’s Health or OB/GYN nurse practitioner, school nurse practitioner, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, and Neonatal nurse practitioner.

2. *Successfully completing a National examination for certification of Nurse Practitioner in a specialty, which is approved.*

Nurse Practitioner National Certification in a category/specialty

National associations/organizations and state boards that have nurse practitioner certification requirements, which are equivalent to the Board’s standards for nurse practitioner certification.

3. *Equivalency.*

A RN who has completed a NP program of study that does not meet the BRN educational standards as specified in California Code of Regulations Section 1484.

Or

A nurse who has not completed a nurse practitioner program of study meeting the Board’s standards may for the purpose of certification provide the BRN with the following:

1. Documentation of remediation of areas of deficiency in course content and/or clinical experience, which meets the same educational standards as a graduate of a BRN approved program of study preparing a nurse practitioner, and

2. verification by a nurse practitioner and by a physician who meets the requirements for faculty member (CCR 1484(C)), of clinical competence in the delivery of primary health care. The applicant must have a professional relationship with a qualified NP faculty who has assumed responsibility for the development, monitoring, and mentoring of the equivalent program of study and for verification that the applicant meets the standards of education as identified in CCR 1484, Standards of Education.