

TRANSITION TO PRACTICE

This handout outlines the key steps involved in getting ready to practice as a nurse practitioner in Oregon. Your instructors, preceptors, nurse practitioner friends and contacts, and the organizations listed below should be able to answer specific individual questions as needed. If you feel overwhelmed, try to remember that, “Success is the quality of your journey!”

1. NP LICENSE AND PRESCRIPTIVE PRIVILEGES in OREGON

These are obtained from the Oregon State Board of Nursing. You need a current Oregon RN license and an official final transcript from an accredited Master’s Degree Nurse Practitioner program specific to the expanded specialty role for which you are applying. To apply for initial certification, you complete an application and pay a \$225 fee (\$150/application & \$75 Prescriptive Privilege fee). Renewal is done every two years on your birthday, concurrent with RN license renewal. Each additional NP specialty is \$50 for renewal. Requirements for NP license renewal include completion of 100 clock hours of continuing education within the two years prior, and a minimum of 960 hours of practice in the expanded specialty role within the five years immediately preceding renewal. Go to <http://www.osbn.state.or.us/> for loads of information.

Applicants for prescriptive privilege authority must already have or be concurrently applying for an NP license, must complete a separate application for prescriptive privileges. There is no additional application fee for prescriptive privileges. Your transcript must show evidence of passing a pharmacology course that meets OSBN requirements and was completed within two years of the date of your application. Renewal is done at the same time as NP license renewal. Go to OSBN web address and go to licensing for advanced practice. There is a wealth of information.

For applications and further information, contact:

Oregon State Board of Nursing
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 465
Portland, OR 97232

(971) 673-0685

E-mail address: www.osbn.state.or.us

Contact person: Tracy Klein MSN WHCNP, Advanced Practice Consultant

For Washington NP Licensure information contact:

Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission
Department of Health
1300 Quince Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-7864
1-360-236-4740

E-mail address: <http://fortress.wa.gov/doh/hpqa1/hps6/Nursing/default.htm>

2. NURSE PRACTITIONER CERTIFICATION-NOW OPTIONAL

As of August 1993, the Oregon State Board of Nursing no longer requires national certification. However, many nurse practitioners view certification as an enhancement of their professional credibility and choose to become and remain certified anyway. Most NP's prefer to take the exam soon after graduation when they are still accustomed to taking exams.

The American Nurse's Credentialing Center offers computer based testing for Adult, Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health, Family Psychiatric and Mental Health, Family, Pediatric, and Acute Care Nurse Practitioners. AANC Certification exams are given in either computer based or written format by authorized testing agencies at locations across the country. Scores will be available within three weeks of testing. To qualify you must be an SNA, ONA or ANA member to qualify for a discounted rate on the exam. Schedules and applications for exams are found at address or website below.

For certification applications and information about exam fees and deadlines contact:

American Nurse's Credentialing Center
8515 Georgia Ave, Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3492
1-800-284-2378 E-mail address: www.nursingworld.org/ancc

ANA offers Manuals and information on Applicable Exams/ Price and ordering information available at <http://www.nursecredentialing.org/cert/revmanuals/html>

These review books are useful for preparing for ANP, FNP, Gerontological, PNP and Psychiatric Mental Health certification exams.

Health Leadership Associates, Inc. has published certification review books for ANP, FNP, PNP Midwifery, Psychiatric Mental Health NP and Acute Care NP. Each review book covers major diseases and dysfunctions of all organ systems.

ANA certification lasts for 5 years. To renew your NP certification you must provide evidence of 1,500 of direct clinical practice, 100 hours of CE, and pay the re-certification fee.

Nurse practitioner certification for adult and family specialties only is also available through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. June and September 2007 test dates are available and fees are \$185 for members and \$270 for non-members. Contact them at:

Certification Program
Capitol Station, TX 78711
(512) 442-5202
E-mail address: certification@aanp.org
Certification for other specialties

Women's Health or Neonatal NP	The National Certification Corporation 645 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900 Chicago, Illinois 60611 1-800-367-5613 or 1-312-951-0207 E-mail address: www.nccnet.org
Nurse Midwifery	American Midwifery Certification Board, Inc. 849 International Drive, Suite 205 Linthicum, MD 21090 1-866-366-9632 E-mail address: http://www.amcbmidwife.org
Mental Health	The American Nurses Credentialing Center (see above) Applicants must first get provisional NP license from State Board of Nursing, practice for two years, and then take the mental health CNS exam at the next available test date.

3. DEA NUMBER (Drug Enforcement Administration Number) this is needed in order to prescribe controlled substances, Schedule II-V. First obtain OSBN Prescriptive Privileges, then apply for a DEA #. There is an application and a \$551 new registrant fee. This certification must be renewed every 3 years. See the DEA Diversion website for more information

To obtain an application, go to <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/>

Or call 1-800-882-9539 or contact Seattle Field Division 1-(206) 553-5990

4. OREGON MEDICAID BILLING (PRIVATE AFS#)

Go to: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/healthplan/index.shtml>

Or call (503)945-5772; 1-800-527-5772

The website offers Tools for providers regarding information you may need.

5. MEDICARE PROVIDER NUMBER

Nurse Practitioners are now eligible for direct reimbursement from Medicare. To obtain a Medicare provider go to

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/>

Download Medicare Enrollment for Physicians, Non-Physician Practitioners and Other Health Care Suppliers. You can call: Medicare Service Center: 800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227)

6. JOB SEARCH / INTERVIEW This is a big topic outside the scope of this handout.

Here are a few suggestions: Look at state-wide job opportunities: www.npo.oregonrn.org

If you are considering a rural practice go to <http://www.ohsu.edu/oregonruralhealth/>

Take an extra copy of your resume and a list of references to job interviews. Don't assume that because you mailed one in with a cover letter that they will be able to locate it on the day of your interview!

You may want to take copies of the NP scope of practice statutes and NP formulary to interviews, especially if the practice or clinic has not employed nurse practitioners in the past. These can be obtained on the Oregon State Board of Nursing website at www.osbn.state.or.us.

Contact NP's and/or personnel managers employed in both the public and private sectors and do some homework on current NP salary and benefit packages before you start interviewing.