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Delaware State Board of Nursing – Advanced Practice Nursing Committee

APN Committee Newsletter - January 2013

APRN Consensus Model

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The Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) Committee of the State Board of Nursing and the Delaware Nursing Association (DNA) worked collaboratively to offer presentations in all three counties in Delaware. The presentations were designed to provide education and open dialog about the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Consensus Model. Approximately 20% of licensed APNs in Delaware attended the meetings. Members from the State Board of Nursing APN Committee engaged the meeting participants and answered questions during each presentation. This article provides a summary of the information discussed during the APRN presentations.

Over 267,000 APRNs in the United States and over 1,200 licensed APRNs in Delaware have become an integral component of the healthcare system. The steadily increasing



number of APRNs licensed to practice in Delaware and their importance in meeting

healthcare needs of patients made it clear that there is a need for more standardized and clearly defined regulation of the education, certification, accreditation, and licensure for APRNs. The Consensus Model for APRN Regulation was developed to

address all these issues. The model has been endorsed by 47 national nursing organizations. The organizations recognized

that no uniform model for regulation of APRNs across the states exists.



Currently, each state independently determines the APRN scope of practice, which APRN roles are recognized, the criteria for their entry into practice, and which certification examinations are accepted. These issues create barriers for APRNs to easily practice across state lines and therefore decreases patient access to healthcare. The goal of the consensus model is to establish a set of national standards and regulations that will not only protect public safety but also enhance patient access to healthcare by improving APRN mobility across state lines.

A central component of the consensus model is to define the four roles and population foci of APRNs. The roles in the model include Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), and Certified Nurse Practitioner (CNP). Each APRN role is directly linked to at least one of the six population foci.

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The six population foci defined by the model are:

- Family / Individual across the life-span
- Adult-Gerontology
- Pediatrics
- Neonatal
- Women's Health / Gender Related
- Psych / Mental Health

The consensus model requires that APRN education programs must be at the graduate and or post-graduate level. The curriculum must include appropriate clinical experiences of sufficient breadth and depth related to the role and population foci. The APRN programs must be nationally accredited, and their graduates must be eligible for national certification in their role and associated population foci that can be used for state licensure as an APRN.

After completing an accredited APRN graduate level education program and successfully passing a national certification exam in their role and population foci, an individual may apply to the State Board of Nursing for APRN licensure. Licensure and scope of practice are based on graduate education in one of the four roles and population foci. State Boards of Nursing will license APRNs as *independent practitioners* with no regulatory requirements for collaboration, direction or supervision. The APRN license will allow for mutual recognition of APRNs through the APRN compact. A grandfathering clause will exempt those APRNs already practicing in the state from the new eligibility requirements.

The consensus model provides a framework in which to evaluate the status of current APRN state licensure requirements. The APN Committee reviewed the current status of APRN licensure in Delaware related to its alignment with the APRN consensus model. The APN Committee has identified the

following issues that need to be addressed in order to implement the APRN consensus model in Delaware.

- Change title from Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN).
- Remove the collaborative practice agreement requirement.
- Change the current Joint Practice Committee to an APRN Advisory Committee.

The APN Committee welcomes your comments and feedback regarding the APRN consensus model. To reach the committee, contact the Delaware State Board of Nursing at:

Phone: (302) 744-4500

Fax: (302) 739-2711

Email: customerservice.dpr@state.de.us

References:

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (2012), Campaign for the APRN Consensus Model and Toolkit. <https://www.ncsbn.org/aprn.htm>
American Nurses Association (2012), APRN Consensus Model Toolkit.
<http://www.nursingworld.org/consensusmodel>

APN Committee Meetings Join the Dialog!

Dates locations and times for APN Committee meetings are posted on: www.dpr.delaware.gov – click on *Nursing* and then on *Meetings, Agendas and Minutes* on the left.