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## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES ABOUT CHANGES IN DELAWARE LICENSE LAW**

Two new laws impact your practice as a Delaware-licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Governor Markell signed [Senate Substitute No. 1 for Senate Bill No. 101](#) and [Senate Bill 57](#) on September 1, 2015. Key changes are summarized below.

### **Question: Does the new law change my title?**

Yes. Your title is now “advanced practice registered nurse,” and the acronym is APRN. When you sign your name, you should use “APRN” and your role’s acronym. The roles are CNM (Certified Nurse Midwife), CNP (Certified Nurse Practitioner), CNS (Certified Nurse Specialist), CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist). See [24 Del. C §1906\(a\) \(7\) and §1920 \(b\)](#).

**Example:** “Nancy Nurse, APRN, CRNA”

### **Question: Do I still need a collaborative agreement?**

You are no longer required to have a collaborative agreement if you have practiced as an APRN at least two years and 4,000 hours. Going forward, new APRN graduates must practice under collaborative agreements until they reach two years and 4,000 hours of APRN practice. Once they have attained this experience, they will no longer be required to maintain a collaborative agreement. See [24 Del. C. §1936](#).

**Example:** If you have practiced as an APRN for four years and you have attained at least 4,000 hours of practice in that time, you no longer need a collaborative agreement. However, if you have been practicing as a an APRN for less than two years, you still need a collaborative agreement even if you have already attained 4000 or more hours of practice.

### **Question: Does this mean that my employer cannot require me to have a collaborative agreement or “supervision plan?”**

No. When you meet the above criteria, the law no longer mandates a collaborative agreement as a requirement for practice as an APRN. However, an employer may still require some type of agreement and can place additional restrictions or requirements on you as an employee or contractor.

### **Question: How does the new law change prescriptive authority?**

- If you currently have prescriptive authority, you will keep it provided you meet the continuing education requirement for renewing it at the time you renew your APRN license. You no longer need a collaborative agreement if you have already practiced as an APRN at least two years and 4,000 hours as explained above.
- If you do not currently have prescriptive authority, you may apply for it by completing the [Application for Prescriptive Authority](#). To be granted prescriptive authority, you must meet the education requirements outlined on the application, but you no longer need a need a collaborative agreement if you have already practiced as an APRN at least two years and 4,000 hours as explained above.

- Prescriptive authority is limited to your APRN role and population focus.
- If your Delaware APRN license was originally issued before 9/1/2015 and you have prescriptive authority, your current license has a Prescriptive Authority Number on it (RX APN). However, the Prescriptive Authority Number will gradually phase out. Starting with the 2017 renewal, your license will display only “With Prescriptive Authority,” instead of the Prescriptive Authority Number, as long as you continue to meet the requirements for prescriptive authority.
- Starting 9/1/2015, newly-issued APRN licenses will display “With Prescriptive Authority” if the applicant meets the prescriptive authority requirements at the time the license is issued. A Prescriptive Authority Number is no longer issued to new licensees.

For details on *prescriptive authority*, see [24 Del. C. §1927 and §1935](#).

**Question: What is independent practice? Can I practice independently?**

*Independent practice* means “practice and prescribing by an advanced practice registered nurse who is not subject to a collaborative agreement and works outside the employment of an established health-care organization, health-care delivery system, physician, podiatrist, or practice group owned by a physician or podiatrist.” ([24 Del. C. §1902 \(j\)](#)). The new law does **not** automatically give current APRNs *independent practice*. A new Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Committee, established in [24 Del. C. §1934](#), will develop the rules and regulations on granting independent practice. These rules will establish the competencies, benchmarks, and metrics for independent practice within each APRN role and population focus. Applications for independent practice will not be provided until the new rules are effective. Watch for more information on this in the future.

**Question: What does the new law allow me to do that I couldn’t do before?**

- Insurers or healthcare services corporations may designate you as a primary care provider.
- You are allowed to sign death certificates.

See [24 Del. C. §1935](#).

**Other Questions?**

If you have questions about the new laws, contact the Board office at (302) 744-4500 or [customerservice.dpr@state.de.us](mailto:customerservice.dpr@state.de.us).