



Advanced Pharmacology Licensure Requirements

HB 216 – Transition from Certification to Licensure

New law effective April 6, 2017

This document addresses questions and provides information about advanced pharmacology education requirements for APRN licensure. This document provides information for CNPs, CNSs and CNMs who hold only COAs and have never held a CTP or CTP-E, and for new CNP, CNS, and CNM applicants. For additional information, please refer to “CNPs, CNSs, and CNMs – Transition to Licensure” on the Board web site.¹

HB 216 eliminates the certificate of authority (COA) and the Certificate to Prescribe (CTP) and replaces them with a license that includes prescriptive authority for all CNPs, CNSs and CNMs.

New APRN Applicants (CNP, CNS or CNM)

The Board will begin licensing new APRN applicants with designations as CNPs, CNSs or CNMs beginning on or after April 6, 2017. These licenses will include the authority to prescribe.

To become newly licensed as a CNP, CNS, and CNM, applicants must have 45 contact hours of advanced pharmacology education within the last five years. The standard curriculum for master’s degree in nursing programs includes a 3-hour course (a semester hour is equal to 45 contact hours) in advanced pharmacology. Therefore, Ohio APRN applicants with a master’s degree in nursing within the past 5 years should have obtained 45 hours of advanced pharmacology as part of their core curriculum. These applicants would meet the pharmacology education requirement to be licensed as an APRN.

¹ This is one of four Board summaries regarding HB 216 that are available on the Board website at www.nursing.ohio.gov: Summary of Major Provisions of HB 216; CNPs, CNSs, CNMs--Transition to Licensure; CRNAs--Transition to Licensure; Advanced Pharmacology Licensure Requirements. The Board will post additional information and FAQs in the future.

CNPs, CNSs and CNMs with COAs Only and Who Have Never Held a CTP or CTP-E

CNPs, CNSs and CNMs who hold an active COA, but never obtained a CTP, CTP-E, or the required 45 hours of advanced pharmacology in the last five years, are not immediately eligible for APRN licensure under HB 216.

If these COA holders do not obtain the 45 hours of advanced pharmacology and/or fail to submit adequate documentation of the completed course of study *as part of 2017 COA renewal/APRN license issuance* process by December 31, 2017, **they must cease APRN practice on January 1, 2018. COAs will no longer be recognized beginning in 2018.**

To be licensed, these COA holders must submit documentation to the Board, *through the 2017 COA renewal/APRN license issuance process beginning July 1, 2017*, that they obtained 45 hours of advanced pharmacology education required for APRN licensure as a CNP, CNS or CNM. The required 45 hours must have been obtained in the last 5 years to meet the requirements of licensure in the new law.

Advanced Pharmacology Requirements

A total of 45 contact hours of advanced pharmacology education is needed to obtain a license for all CNPs, CNSs and CNMs. HB 216 did not make any changes in the content required for the 45 contact hours. There must be a minimum of 36 hours in advanced pharmacology from a single provider. In addition, the education must include fiscal/ethical implications of prescribing, "state and federal" laws applicable to prescribing, instruction specific to schedule II which includes pain management therapies, fiscal/ethical implications for schedule II, "state and federal" laws about schedule II, prevention of abuse, and diversion of schedule II. See Section 4723.482(B), ORC, for details about the content.

The Board rules allow schedule II instruction to be integrated, and specify that the course *can be faculty directed and obtained from either an accredited education institution acceptable to the board or a continuing education (CE) program that meets the requirements of Chapter 4723-14, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC).* See Rule 4723-9-02, OAC, for details.

The law and rules referenced above are also available for review at the "Law and Rules" link on the left side of the Board website at www.nursing.ohio.gov.

Where to Obtain Advanced Pharmacology Education

Many APRNs obtain the advanced pharmacology contact hours for CE online through Fitzgerald or Barkley and Associates and in addition may take a course(s) offered by the Ohio Nurses Association, "Prescribing Schedule II Medications: An Online Course for APRNs who Prescribe in Ohio" or "APRN Schedule II 3 Hour Course" at <https://ce4nurses.org>.

Courses offered by other companies or organizations would also be acceptable as long as the specified requirements are met and a total of 45 contact hours are obtained.

Renewal Reminder – Important 2017 Deadlines

Renew your **RN license** no later than **October 31, 2017**

You must renew your RN license to be eligible to complete the 2017 COA renewal/APRN license issuance process

Complete the 2017 COA renewal/APRN license issuance process at the same time you renew your RN license, but no later than **December 31, 2017**

APRNs who successfully complete both processes in 2017 will transition to licensure

Questions?

We want to answer your questions, but we don't want to miss your call. We will be renewing and issuing over 200,000 nursing licenses in 2017.

If you have questions concerning licensure and HB 216, please e-mail us at the Board so that we can more timely address your questions and those of your fellow licensees.

Please email practice216@nursing.ohio.gov

[On the front page of the Board website \(www.nursing.ohio.gov\)](http://www.nursing.ohio.gov), please click on "[Subscribe to eNews, Facebook, and Twitter](#)" to sign up to receive Board updates and alerts regarding HB 216 and renewal.