



Ohio Board of Nursing

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MEMORANDUM

To: Board Members
Ohio Board of Nursing

From: Lisa Emrich, Program Manager

Subject: State Summary of APRN Regulations

Date: September 10, 2018

The Advisory Group on Advanced Practice Registered Nursing (APRN Advisory Committee) requested information about other states' APRN regulations. Certain state information was included in the July 2017 "Paper on Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNPs) Primary Care and Acute Care" and that information is provided in Attachment A.

Board staff conducted an additional review of state regulations by researching state boards of nursing website materials and administrative rules/statutes. A summary is included as Attachment B. The APRN Advisory Committee will review this information at its October 1, 2018 meeting.

State representatives at the 2018 NCSBN Annual Meeting/Delegate Assembly, discussed the provision of primary and acute care by CNPs, and as a result, the Delegates passed a resolution "to convene a forum of state board regulators with expertise in APRN issues to investigate the challenges boards of nursing are experiencing in relation to the implementation of the APRN Consensus Model, and to report on these findings at the 2019 Delegate Assembly."



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Excerpt: Paper on Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNPs) Primary Care and Acute Care (July 2017)

Other State Boards of Nursing

Below is information from state boards of nursing, but it is not intended to be an extensive review of all the states.

➤ Arizona State Board of Nursing

The Arizona State Board of Nursing adopted a white paper, “Registered Nurse Practitioner (RNP) Practicing in an Acute Care Setting on November 19, 2009.

Registered nurse practitioner education has evolved into a system consisting of advanced core and focused specialty courses. This educational model prepares graduates for advanced nursing practice as direct care providers **within a focused population of care** (also known as specialty area). RNP does not follow the medical model therefore RNPs do not readily fit into the process used by facilities to credential physicians and medical residents....The primary component of the RNP ability to practice is their licensure and recognition through national certification in an established population area of practice.....Population is not only defined by diagnosis, gender, and age, but also by acuity and type of care needed. (Page 1)

There are 2 broad categories of RNP preparation: **primary care with didactic and clinical education** focused on health promotion, disease prevention and treatment of patients primarily in ambulatory and community settings; and **acute care with didactic and clinical education** focused on the manage of patients with complex acute, critical and chronic health conditions primarily in acute care (hospital) settings. (Page 2)

Therefore, it is the position of the Board that an RNP who provides acute care services cannot exceed the limits of the advanced practice specialty area. Sole and independent management of the care of complex unstable patients in an acute care setting, including but not limited to an intensive care unit, is in the exclusive domain of the nurse practitioner who has completed an approved acute care nurse practitioner program. A primary care nurse practitioner may have a role in assisting or directing management of the acute care patients as long as the aspect of care is within the limits of their specialty [focused population] and role of nurse practitioner certification. (Page 3)

The RNP is expected to utilize appropriate judgment to determine if a specific role or procedure within a patient care situation is within the scope of practice that he or she is educationally prepared to provide....Experience as an RN, on-the-job training, having a physician sign off order, and the personal comfort of the RNP is not a sound basis for accepting an assignment or role beyond the RNP’s scope of practice. (Page 3)

Attachment A

➤ Kentucky Board of Nursing

The Kentucky Board of Nursing published an article in the spring 2017 issue of *KBN Connection* entitled, “Certified Nurse Practitioner: Acute Care or Primary Care is my Practice Setting Specific to my Role?”

In summary, regardless of the setting, the CNP may legally only manage the care of those patients and conditions for which the CNP is formally educated and for which the CNP is nationally certified. Many of the nurse practitioner certification test plans are available online for review through the specific national certifying agency website. Additionally, the Kentucky Board of Nursing has published the “APRN Scope of Practice Determination Guidelines” and the “APRN Scope of Practice Decision-Making Model” which contain a decision chart providing guidance to APRNs in determining whether a selected act is within an individual APRN’s scope of practice. (Page 2)

➤ Nebraska Board of Nursing

The Nebraska Board of Nursing published an article in the spring 2017 issue of the *Nebraska Board of Nursing News* entitled, “The Practice Lane, The Many Lanes of APRN Roles and Populations.”

In summary, APRNs commit early in the course of education and training to a particular role and population focus. Practice lanes are affirmed with professional certification and subsequent licensure. Lane changes are best preceded with attention and planning for the acquisition of new competencies and other means for defensible practice. Advance practice nurses must assume responsibility for recognizing practice opportunities that may be misaligned with education and certification, and ultimately present risks patient safety and outcomes. (Page 13)

➤ Texas Board of Nursing

On their website the Texas Board of Nursing provides FAQs for APRN Practice. (Attachment 17) In response to a question about two APRNs approved in different population foci, the Board states:

It is important to understand that scope of practice for the advanced practice registered nurse is founded first and foremost upon his/her advanced education preparation. The patient population, individual advanced education program content and competencies attained in the advanced practice registered nursing education program always serve as the foundation for advanced practice registered nursing practice. Rule 221.13(b), relating to the core standards for advanced practice, further states that advanced practice registered nurses must practice within the role and population focus appropriate to their educational preparation.....Each advanced practice registered nurse is responsible for practicing within the role and population focus licensed by the board and appropriate to his/her education preparation. Additionally, each advanced practice registered nurse is responsible for recognizing when he/she is in danger of exceeding his/her personal and professional scope of practice. (Pages 7-8)

➤ Wyoming Board of Nursing

The Wyoming Board of Nursing published, “What Wyoming APRNs Need to Know about Scope of Practice” in the Summer 2017 issue of the *Wyoming Nurse Reporter*.

Attachment A

For CNPs, which represent the largest group of the four APRN roles, the APRN Regulatory Model also provides clarification regarding acute care versus primary care practice. Specifically, the footnote on p. 10 directly under the model states: The CNP is prepared with the acute care CNP competencies and/or the primary care CNP competencies. At this point in time the acute care and primary care CNP delineation applies only to the pediatric and adult-gerontology CNP population foci. Scope of practice of the primary care or acute care CNP is **not setting specific** but is based on patient care needs. Programs may prepare individuals across both the primary care and acute care CNP competencies. If programs prepare graduates across both sets of roles, the graduate must be prepared with the consensus-based competencies for both roles and must successfully obtain certification in both the acute and the primary care CNP roles. CNP certification in the acute care or primary care roles must match the educational preparation for CNPs in these roles.

Thus according to the APRN Regulatory Model, CNPs prepared for the family/across the lifespan role (e.g., FNPs) are prepared for primary care. There is not the acute care role for FNPs, and FNPs who desire to engage in acute care must be prepared at either the adult-gerontology or pediatric population level as an adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner (AGACNP) and/or a pediatric acute care nurse practitioner (PACNP). It is also important to note that model does not distinguish primary care from acute care by practice setting and allows for primary care occurring in traditional acute care settings (e.g., urgent care clinic in a hospital) and acute care occurring in ambulatory settings. (Pages 10-11)



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STATE SUMMARY OF APRN REGULATIONS

State	State Regulations and Published Information
Alabama	<p>Practice as a certified registered nurse practitioner is the performance of nursing skills by a registered nurse who has demonstrated by certification advanced knowledge and skills in the delivery of nursing services within a health care system that provides for consultation, collaborative management or referral as indicated by the health status of the client.</p> <p>Qualifications for approval to practice as a certified registered nurse practitioner. Met all requirements for completion of or graduation from an organized program of study and clinical experience beyond the basic educational preparation as a registered nurse that prepares nurse practitioners and is recognized by the Board of Nursing and the appropriate specialty-certifying agency. Current certification as a certified registered nurse practitioner granted by a national certifying agency recognized by the Board of Nursing in the clinical specialty consistent with the educational preparation and appropriate to the area of practice.</p> <p>The certified registered nurse practitioner shall practice in accordance with national standards and functions identified by the appropriate specialty-certifying agency as recognized by the Board of Nursing and as congruent with Alabama law.</p> <p>A certified registered nurse practitioner may, after successful completion of an organized program of study and supervised clinical practice, carry out functions beyond the nurse practitioner educational preparation provided the functions are approved by the Board of Nursing as being within the legal scope of practice for a certified registered nurse practitioner. Such functions shall be submitted to the Joint Committee for consideration for inclusion on the standard protocol.</p> <p>The Alabama Board published the Advanced Practice Nursing Certification Exams Recognized by the Alabama Board of Nursing that lists the retired and current certification exams. It lists the Emergency Nurse Practitioner Specialty for Nurse Practitioners is a "subspecialty" certification for FNP's only.</p>
Alaska	<p>An advanced nurse practitioner must be authorized to practice in one or more of the following population focuses: Acute care/emergency; adult; family; geriatric; neonatal; pediatric; women's health; family psychiatric/mental health; adult psychiatric/mental health; family/individual across the lifespan; adult/gerontology; women's health/gender related.</p>

	<p>An advanced nurse practitioner must hold a current certification of nurse practitioner in the population focus of nursing for which the applicant was educated as provided in (a) of this section, granted by a national certification body recognized by the board. Scope of practice. The board recognizes advanced and specialized acts of nursing practice as those described in the scope of practice statements for nurse practitioners certified by national certification bodies recognized by the board.</p>
<p>Arizona</p>	<p>RNPs and CNSs shall practice within one or more population foci, consistent with their education and certification. Population foci include: Family-individual across the lifespan; Adult-gerontology primary or acute care; Neonatal; Pediatric primary or acute care; Women's health-gender related; Psychiatric-mental health.</p> <p>A RNP shall only provide health care services including prescribing and dispensing within the RNP's population focus and role and for which the RNP is educationally prepared and for which competency has been established and maintained. Educational preparation means academic coursework or continuing education activities that include both theory and supervised clinical practice.</p>
<p>Arkansas</p>	<p>Certified Nurse Practitioner. Hold current certification by a national certifying body recognized by the Board of Nursing in the APRN Role and population foci appropriate to the educational preparation.</p> <p>Additional certifications. An APRN who has completed post-masters education for an additional nursing specialty shall: submit a request for permission to practice in the new certification area; submit evidence of eligibility to sit for the new certification exam from the Board approved certifying body; submit results of the certification in the additional specialty directly from the certifying body; submit an official transcript or document from a nursing education program that meets the qualifications if Section II of this Chapter verifying the date and degree of certificate conferred. An APRN who has prescriptive authority shall prescribe only for patients covered by the original specialty while waiting additional specialty results.</p> <p>In addition to standards, the advanced practice registered nurse shall practice in accordance with the standards established by the national certifying body from which the APRN holds his or her certification required for licensure.</p>
<p>California</p>	<p>A registered nurse who has met the requirements of Section 1482 for holding out as a nurse practitioner, may be known as a nurse practitioner and may place the letters "R.N., N.P." after his/her name alone or in combination with other letters or words identifying categories of specialization, including but not limited to the following: adult nurse practitioner, pediatric nurse practitioner, obstetrical-gynecological nurse practitioner, and family nurse practitioner.</p> <p>Nurse practitioner means a registered nurse who possesses additional preparation and skills in physician diagnosis, psychosocial assessment, and management of health-illness needs in primary health care, and who has been prepared in a program confirms to board standards as specified in Section 1484. Primary health care is that which occurs when a consumer makes contact with a health care provider who assumes responsibility and accountability for the continuity of health care regardless of the presence of absence of disease.</p>

	<p>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. The board shall establish categories of nurse practitioners and standards for nurse to hold themselves out at nurse practitioners in each category. Such standards shall take into account the types of advanced level as of nursing practice, which are or may be performed and the clinical and didactic education, experience, or both needed to practice safely at those levels. In setting such standards, the board shall consult with nurse practitioners, physicians and surgeons with expertise in the nurse practitioner field and health care organizations utilizing nurse practitioners. Established standards shall apply to persons without regard to the date of meeting such standards. If the board sets standards for use of nurse practitioner titles, which include completion of an academically affiliated program, it shall provide equivalent standards for registered nurses who have not completed such a program.</p> <p>The application for a California Nurse Practitioner states the following national organizations/associations have meet the certification requirements that are equivalent to the Board's standards for nurse practitioner certification: AANP; ANCC; PNCB; NCC; AACN.</p>
Colorado	<p>Practice of advanced practice nursing means an expanded scope of professional nursing in a scope, role, and population focus approved by the board, with or without compensation or personal profit, and includes the practice of professional nursing. The board shall establish the advanced practice registry and shall require that a nurse applying for registration identify his or her role and population focus. The board shall establish reasonable criteria for designation of specific role and population foci based on currently accepted professional standards.</p> <p>An advanced practice nurse shall practice in accordance with the standards of the appropriate national professional nursing organization and have a safe mechanism for consultation or collaboration with a physician or, when appropriate, referral to a physician. Advanced practice nursing also includes when appropriate, referral to other health care providers.</p>
Connecticut	<p>The Department of Public Health may issue an advanced practice registered nurse license to a person who...holds and maintains current certification as a nurse practitioner, a clinical nurse specialist or a nurse anesthetist from one of the following national certifying bodies that certify nurses in advanced practice: The American Nurses' Association, the Nurses' Association of the American College of obstetricians and Gynecologists Certification Corporation, the National Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates or the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, their successors or other appropriate national certifying bodies approved by the board of examiners for nursing.</p>
Delaware	<p>"APRN" means an individual with knowledge and skills acquired in basic nursing education; licensure as an RN; and graduation from or completion of a graduate level APRN program accredited by a national accrediting body and current certification by a national certifying body in the appropriate APRN role and at least 1 population focus.</p> <p>"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. Independent practice shall be in an area substantially related to the population and focus of the APRN's education, and certification.</p>

Florida	<p>The nurse practitioner may perform any or all of the following acts within the framework of established protocol: manage selected medical problems; order physical and occupational therapy; initiate, monitor, or alter therapies for certain uncomplicated acute illnesses; monitor and manage patients with stable chronic diseases; establish behavioral problems and diagnosis and make treatment recommendations.</p> <p>Professional or national nursing specialty boards recognized by the Board include, but are not limited to: (only those pertaining to CNPs) National Certification Corporation for OB/GYN, Neonatal Nursing Specialties; National Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Associates; National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses; American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation; American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Adult Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Certification; Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.</p> <p>Nursing specialty boards shall meet the following standards: attest to the competency of nurses in a clinical specialty area; require a written examination prior to certification; require (and required at the time of original certification) completion of a formal program prior to eligibility of examination; maintain a program accreditation or review mechanism that adheres to criteria which are substantially equivalent to requirements in Florida; and identify standards or scope of practice statements as appropriate for the specialty.</p>
Georgia	<p>"Advanced practice registered nurse" means a registered professional nurse licensed under this chapter who is recognized by the board as having met the requirements established by the board to engage in advanced nursing practice and who holds a master's degree or other graduate degree from an approved nursing education program and a national board certification in his or her area of specialty.</p> <p>Nurse practitioner practices in a manner consistent with the nationally recognized nursing practice standards for the respective nurse practitioner specialty that is consistent with the Board-recognized national certification organization identified in Rule 410-11-12.</p> <p>The Board recognizes certification by the American Midwifery Certification Board; American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; National Certification Corporation; Pediatric Nursing Certification Board; National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists; American Nurses Credentialing Center; and the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certification Corporation for titles recognized in Rules 410-11.</p>
Hawaii	<p>Requires APRN applicant to hold a current, unencumbered certification of having passed a national certification examination that measures role and population-focused competencies and is recognized by the Board; maintained continued competencies through recertification in role and population-focused competencies through a national certification program recognized by the board.</p> <p>Recognized national certifying bodies recognized by the board to certify the advanced practice registered nurse specialty include: The American Nurses Credentialing Center; the Pediatric Nurses Certification Board; The National Certification Corporation for Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing Specialties; The Council on Certification of the American College of Nurse-Midwives; The National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists; and The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. The board may</p>

	<p>recognize other national certifying bodies accredited by the ABNS or the NCCA, which provide competency-based certification examinations reflective of APRN knowledge of and expertise in their nursing specialties.</p> <p>A board-recognized advanced practice registered nurse shall have the right to use the title(s) designated by the certifying bodies. No other person shall assume any of the titles designated by the certifying bodies or any other words, letters, sign, or devices to indicate that the person using the title is so qualified. The application does not detail any type of population focus.</p>
Idaho	<p>Advanced practice registered nurses, when functioning within the recognized scope of practice, assume primary responsibility for the care of their patients in diverse settings. This practice incorporates the use of professional judgment in the assessment and management of wellness and conditions appropriate to the advanced practice registered nurse's role, population focus and area of specialization.</p> <p>Certification means recognition of the applicant's advanced knowledge, skills and abilities in a defined area of nursing practice by a national organization recognized by the Board. The certification process measures the theoretical and clinical content denoted in the advanced scope of practice, and is developed in accordance with generally accepted standards of validation and reliability.</p> <p>Population focus. Means the section of the population, which the APRN has targeted to practice within. The categories of population foci are: Family/individual across the lifespan; Adult-gerontology; Women's health/gender-related; Neonatal; Pediatrics; and Psychiatric-mental health.</p> <p>Scope of Practice of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. Means those activities that the advanced practice registered nurse may perform. Those activities shall be defined by the Board according to the advanced practice registered nurse's education, preparation, experience and the parameters set forth by the advanced practice registered nurse's recognized, national certifying organization.</p> <p>Specialization. Means a more focused area of preparation and practice than that of the APRN role/population foci that is built on established criteria for recognition as a nursing specialty to include, but not limited to, specific patient populations *e.g., elder care, care of post-menopausal women), and specific health care needs (e.g., palliative care, pain management, nephrology). Certified Nurse Practitioner.</p> <p>In addition to core standards, the advanced practice registered nurse in the role of the certified nurse practitioner provides initial and ongoing comprehensive primary care services to clients including, but not limited to, diagnosis and management of acute and chronic disease, and health promotion, disease prevention, health education counseling, and identification and management of the effects of illness on clients and their families.</p>
Illinois	<p>An application for licensure as an advanced practice nurse shall include proof of current national certification, which includes completion of an examination from one of the following: Nurse Practitioner certification from: American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program as a Nurse Practitioner; American Nurses Credentialing Center as a Nurse Practitioner; The Pediatric Nurse Certification Board as a Nurse Practitioner; The National Certification Corporation for the Gynecologic and Neonatal</p>

	<p>Nursing Specialties as a Nurse Practitioner; The Certification Board of Urologic Nurses and Associates as a Urologic Nurse Practitioner.</p> <p>Proof of completion of a graduate degree appropriate for national certification in the clinical advanced practice nursing specialty or a graduate degree or post-master's certificate from a graduate level program in a clinical advanced practice nursing specialty.</p> <p>An advanced practice nurse may provide services in a licensed hospital or a licensed ambulatory surgical treatment center without prescriptive authority or a written collaborative agreement pursuant to Section 65-35 of the Act. An APRN must possess clinical privileges recommended by the hospital medical staff and granted by the hospital or the consulting medical staff committee and ambulatory surgical treatment center in order to provide services. The medical staff or consulting medical staff committee shall periodically review the services of advanced practice nurses granted clinical privileges. Authority may also be granted to individual APNs to select, order and administer medications, including controlled substances as permitted under the Act and this Part, to provide delineated care. The attending physician shall determine an APN's role in providing care for his or her patients, except as otherwise provided in the medical staff bylaws or consulting committee policies.</p>
Indiana	<p>"Advanced practice nurse" means a nurse practitioner; a certified nurse midwife; a clinical nurse specialist; or a certified registered nurse anesthetist; who is a registered nurse qualified to practice nursing in a specialty role based upon the additional knowledge and skill gained through a formal organized program of study and clinical experience, or the equivalent as determined by the board, which does not limit but extends or expands the function of the nurse which may be initiated by the client or provider in settings that shall include hospital outpatient clinics and health maintenance organizations.</p> <p>According to Indiana published information, there is no "APRN license." There is a separate application for the "authority to prescribe" as an APRN. This application requires the applicant to provide their APRN role and to write in the specialty.</p>
Iowa	<p>"Advanced registered nurse practitioner" means....the ARNP is prepared for an advanced role by virtue of additional knowledge and skills gained through a formal advanced practice education program of nursing in a specialty approved by the board.</p> <p>"Certified nurse practitioner is an ARNP educated in the disciplines of nursing who has advanced knowledge of nursing, physical and psychosocial assessment, appropriate interventions, and management o health care, and who possesses evidence of current certification by a national professional nursing certifying body approved by the board.</p> <p>On the application, the nurse must select "the ARPN category(s) applying for and it states the category MUST match the certification. Paraphrasing, it lists the population foci including Acute Care and Primary care designated certifications.</p>
Kansas	<p>Functions of the advanced practice registered nurse in the role of nurse practitioner includes providing health care services for which the nurse practitioner is educationally prepared and for which competency ahs been established and maintained.</p>

	<p>Educational preparation may include academic coursework, workshops, institutes, and seminars if theory or clinical experience, or both are included. A license may be granted if an individual has been certified by a national nursing organization whose certification standards have been approved by the board as equal to or greater than the corresponding standards established by the board for obtaining a license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse. National nursing organizations with certification standards that meet this standard shall be identified by the board, and a current list of national nursing organizations with certification standards approved by the board shall be maintained by the board.</p> <p>The APRN license application for CNPs and CNSs requires the applicant to specify the specialty area, which are listed on the application as: Acute Care; Adult; Community Health; Family; Gerontology: Medical-Surgical; Neonatal; Pediatric; Psychiatric-Mental Health; Women's Health; and Other (to be specified).</p>
Kentucky	<p>"Advanced practice registered nursing" means the performance of additional acts by registered nurses who have gained advanced clinical knowledge and skills through an accredited education program that prepares the registered nurse for one (1) of the four (4) APRN roles; who are certified by the American Nurses' Association or other nationally established organizations or agencies recognized by the board to certify registered nurses for advanced practice registered nursing as a certified nurse practitioner....; and who certified in at least one (1) population focus.</p> <p>"Population focus" means the section of the population within which the advanced practice registered nurse has targeted to practice. The categories of population foci are: Family and individual across the lifespan; Adult gerontology; Neonatal; Pediatrics; Women's health and gender-related health; and Psychiatric mental health.</p> <p>The Kentucky Board's published its recognized national certifying organization for purposes of APRN licensure (only those pertaining CNPs are listed here): American Association of Critical-Care Nurses Certification Association; American Association of Nurse Practitioners; American Nurses Credentialing Center; National Certification Corporation; Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation; and Pediatric Nursing Certification Board.</p> <p>In addition, its has published the following recognized population foci for APRN-NP and APRN-CNS designations: Acute Care; Adult; Adult Psych Mental Health; Child/Adolescent Psych Mental Health; Family; Family Psych Mental Health; Gerontological; Medical/Surgery; Neonatal; Pediatric; Women's Health.</p>
Louisiana	<p>"Advanced practice registered nurse means a licensed registered nurse who has completed an accredited graduate level education program preparing the individual in one or more APRN role and population foci, is certified by a nationally recognized certifying body in one or more role and population focus and who meets the criteria for an advanced practice registered nurse as established by the board.</p> <p>"Certified Nurse Practitioner-an advanced practice registered nurse educated in a specified area of care and certified according to the requirements of a nationally recognized certifying body as approved by the board and who is authorized to provide primary, acute or</p>

	<p>chronic care as an advanced nurse practitioner acting within his scope of practice to individuals, families, and other populations in a variety of settings including, but not limited to, homes, institutions, offices, industry, schools, and other community agencies.</p> <p>"Population focus" -term referenced in the National Counsel for State Boards of Nursing's document entitled: Consensus Model for APRN Regulation; Licensure Accreditation, Certification, and Education" which refers to one of the areas of concentrated study and practice provided to a collection of specified individuals who have characteristics in common. A broad, population-based focus of study encompasses common problems and aspects of that group of patients and the likely co-morbidities, interventions, and responses to those problems. Examples include, but are not limited to neonatal, pediatric, women's health, adult, family, mental health, etc. A population focus is not defined as a specific disease/ health problem or specific intervention.</p> <p>The APRN is responsible and accountable for compliance to the specific standards of practice for his/her specialty and functional role and for other state and federal rules and regulations that effect his/her patient population(s).</p>
Maine	<p>Certified nurse practitioner. "Certified nurse practitioner" means a registered professional nurse who has received post-graduate education designed to prepare the nurse for advanced practice registered nursing in a specialty area in nursing that has a defined scope of practice and has been certified in the clinical specialty by a national certifying organization acceptable to the Board. The scope of practice includes: the certified nurse practitioner shall provide only those health care services for which the certified nurse practitioner is educationally and clinically prepared, and for which competency has been maintained. The Board, in its discretion, reserves the right to make exceptions.</p> <p>The Board accepts nurse practitioner certification conferred by national certifying organizations such as, but not limited to: American Nurses Credentialing Center; National Board of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners; National Certification Corporation for the Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing Specialties; and American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.</p>
Maryland	<p>CNP license issued based on national certification, and the specific national certification is indicated on the CNP's license. The Board must certify that the CNP is consistent with the education and certification.</p>
Massachusetts	<p>Certified Nurse Practitioner. A CNP will only practice in the clinical category(s) or which the CNP has attained and maintained certification. A CNP may attain additional competencies within his or her category(s) consistent with the scope and standards of CNP practice. The scope of CNP practice is reflective of standards for the provision of health care services to individuals throughout the lifespan, including health promotion, disease prevention, health education, counseling and making referrals to other members of the health care team, as well as the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic illness and disease. A CNP provides care in diverse settings, including, but not limited to, home, hospital, nursing facilities, and a variety of ambulatory care settings including private offices, community and public clinics.</p> <p>The Massachusetts Board published an "Advanced Practice Registered Nursing Frequently Asked Questions" document that includes: My APRN certification is in a specialty different than the job I am working in, is that ok? Response: The Board authorizes</p>

	<p>APRN practice by clinical category (CNP, CRNA, CNM, PCNS or CNS), not by specialty. You may practice only in the clinical category that you receive authorization. Pursuant to the regulation, licensed nurses must only assume those duties and responsibilities within his or her scope of practice and for which he or she has acquired and maintained necessary knowledge, skill and abilities. Competency means the application of knowledge and the use of affective, cognitive and psychomotor skills required or the role of a nurse and for the delivery of safe nursing care in accordance with accepted standards of practice. The Board may request at anytime that you provide documentation that clearly demonstrates your competence to provide care for a population within your practice.</p> <p>This document also lists the certifying organizations and their national certification examinations accepted by the Board. These are consistent with the ANCC, AANP, AACN, NCC; and PNCB and their listed certification examinations, including the Family across the lifespan, adult-gerontology acute and primary care and pediatric acute and primary care.</p>
Michigan	<p>A specialty certification for nurse practitioner shall be granted to a registered professional nurse who satisfied all the following requirements: Possesses advanced practice certification from 1 of the following certification organizations, or successor organizations: The American Nurses Credentialing Center; The Pediatric Nursing Certification Board; The National Certification Corporation for Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner; The American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for Adult Nurse Practitioners, Family Nurse Practitioners, and Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioners; The Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation; The American Association of Critical Care Nurses Certification Corporation for Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.</p>
Minnesota	<p>"Advanced practice registered nurse" means an individual licensed as an advanced practice registered nurse by the board and certified by a national nurse certification organization acceptable to the board to practice as a clinical nurse specialist, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, or nurse practitioner.</p> <p>"Nurse practitioner practice" means the provision of care including: (1) health promotion, disease prevention, health education, and counseling; (2) providing health assessment and screening activities; (3) diagnosing, treating, and facilitating patients' management of their acute and chronic illnesses and diseases; (4) ordering, performing, supervising, and interpreting diagnostic studies, excluding interpreting computed tomography scans, magnetic resonance imaging scans, positron emission tomography scans, nuclear scans, and mammography.; (5) prescribing pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapies; and (6) consulting with, collaborating with, or referring to other health care providers as warranted by the needs of the patient.</p> <p>"Population focus" means the categories of patients for which the advanced practice registered nurse has the educational preparation to provide care and services. The categories of population foci are: family and individual across the life span; adult gerontology; neonatal; pediatrics; women's hand gender-related health; and psychiatric and mental health.</p>

	<p>The Minnesota Board's Advanced Practice registered Nurse Instructions for Licensure Application directs the individual to "Check the appropriate population focus in the Population Focus section. More than one population may be selected as directed by your certification(s). Check Acute Care or Primary Care only if your certification reflects that designation.</p>
Mississippi	<p>The APRN shall practice according to standards and guidelines of the national certification organization for which he is certified. APRNs must hold a Board-approved national Certification to designate one's self as holding a subspecialty. This does not prevent an APRN without a subspecialty designation from practicing in a specialty or subspecialty area.</p> <p>APRN applicant must submit current national certification as an APRN in a designated are of practice by a national certification organization recognized by the Board. The Board retains the right to refuse to recognize a national accreditation organization.</p> <p>Practice site: Changes or additions regarding practice sties shall be submitted with a fee to the board by the APRN on forms supplied by the Board. The APRN may not practice at a site prior to approval by the Board.</p>
Missouri	<p>Scope of practice. RNs recognized by the MSBN as being eligible to practice as an APRN shall function clinically: Within the state of Missouri Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 335 RSMO, and all other applicable rules and regulations; Within the professional scope and standards of their advanced practice nursing clinical specialty area and consistent with their formal advanced nursing education and national certification, if applicable, or within their education, training, knowledge, judgment, skill, and competence as an RN; Within the regulations set forth by the BNDD and the federal DEA if deemed eligible to prescribe controlled substances by the MSBN.</p> <p>The Missouri Board' linked NCSBN's list of APRN Certification Programs (which are actually the certifying organizations) the examinations offered/credentials granted by each.</p>
Montana	<p>"Certifying body" means a board-recognized national certifying organization that uses psychometrically sound and legally defensible examinations for certification in APRN roles and population focus.</p> <p>"Population focus" for APRN practice means the section of the population that the APRN is certified to practice within. The categories of population focus are: family/individual across the lifespan; adult-gerontology; neonatal, pediatrics, women's health/gender related, or psychiatric/mental health.</p> <p>"National professional organization" means a board-recognized professional nursing membership organization that delineates nursing practice standards and guidelines.</p> <p>The Montana Board of Nursing published a table containing Recognized National Professional Organizations for APRN Scope and Standards of Practice. These are the various CNP national certifications, the approved national certifying organizations and their respective standards and competencies.</p>

Nebraska	A nurse practitioner may provide health care services within specialty areas. Approved certifying body means a national certification organization which certifies qualified licensed nurses for advanced practice in a clinical specialty area and which requires eligibility criteria related to education and practice; offers an examination in an advanced practice area which meets current psychometric guidelines and tests; and is approved by the board.
Nevada	<p>An advanced practice registered nurse may perform the following acts in addition to the functions of a registered nurse if the advanced practice registered nurse is properly prepared and the acts are currently within the standard of practice for his or her role and population focus: Any other act if the advanced practice registered nurse is certified to perform that act by an organization recognized by the Board; the performance of the act was taught in the program of education attended by the advanced practice registered nurse; the performance of the act was taught in a comprehensive program of instruction successfully completed by the advanced practice registered nurse, which included clinical experience; the act is within the scope of practice of an advanced practice registered nurse as determined by the Board; or the advanced practice registered nurse is trained to perform that act by a physician or another advanced practice registered nurse and the act has been described as being performed by an advanced practice registered nurse in two or more national nursing publications, national nursing practice guidelines or national standards for nursing practice ,or any combination thereof, which are listed in the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, as adopted by reference in NAC 632.110; or has been individually approved by the Board.</p> <p>Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, if an advanced practice registered nurse who is authorized to prescribe certain controlled substances, poisons, dangerous drugs and devices changes his or her role or population focus, he or she must submit an application to the Board for authority to prescribe those controlled substances, poisons, dangerous drugs and devices which are currently within the standard of practice in that role or population focus. An advanced practice registered nurse who is authorized to prescribe certain controlled substances, poisons, dangerous drugs and devices and changes his or her role or population focus to a role or population focus that is substantially similar to his or her former role or population focus is not required to submit to the Board the application required pursuant to subsection 3 if the Board has authorized him or her to prescribe controlled substances, poisons, dangerous drugs and devices in the practice of his or her former role or population focus. An applicant who wishes to obtain a license to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse must request that the Board issue the license to specify the role of the applicant and the population of focus of the applicant within that specific role.</p> <p>The Board recognized the following populations of focus: Women's health or gender-specific health; Family health and caring for a patient across the lifespan of the patient; Mental health; Adult health; Gerontology; Pediatrics; Neonatal; and Any other population of focus approved by the Board. An applicant must submit to the Board documentation of completion of the educational requirements prescribed by the Board for the population of focus for the specific role for which the license is requested.</p>
New Hampshire	Application requires the applicant to identify the "category" under which the license will be issued, and that each category requires a separate application. The categories are: Acute Care Nurse Practitioner; Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (Adult); Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (Adult-Gerontology); Adult Nurse Practitioner; Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; Family Nurse Practitioner; Family Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; Neonatal Nurse Practitioner; Pediatric Nurse Practitioner; Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

New Jersey	An applicant for certification as an advanced practice nurse shall complete a course of study and successfully complete an examination in an advanced practice nursing specialty credentialed by a national certifying agency, that is accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties and/or the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. A completed application must include proof that the applicant is currently certified by a national certifying agency that is accredited by the American Board of Nursing Specialties and/or the National Commission for Certifying Agencies.
New Mexico	<p>"Certified nurse practitioner" means a registered nurse who is licensed by the board for advanced practice as a certified nurse practitioner and whose name and pertinent information are entered on the list of certified nurse practitioners maintained by the board.</p> <p>Nurse practitioner practice. The CNP makes independent decision regarding the health care needs of the client and also makes independent decisions regarding the health care needs of the client and also makes independent decisions in carrying out health care regimens. The CNP provides primary or acute, or chronic, or long-term, or end of life health care to meet the health care needs of individuals, families, and communicates in any health care setting. The CNP may assume specific functions or perform specific procedures which are beyond the advanced educational preparation and certification for the CNP provided the knowledge and skills required to perform the function or procedure emanates from a recognized body of knowledge or advanced practice of nursing and the function or procedure is not prohibited by any law or statute.</p> <p>When assuming specific functions and performing specific procedures, which are beyond the CNP's advanced educational preparation and certification, the CNP is responsible for obtaining the appropriate knowledge, skills and supervision to ensure he/she can perform the function/procedures safely and competently and recognize and respond to any complications that may arise.</p>
New York	<p>Nurse practitioner certification. Certificates. Nurse practitioner certificates issued to a registered professional nurse will reflect the specialty area of nurse practitioner academic preparation. The certificate will specify the specialty area of practice and, when applicable, that prescriptive privileges have been granted. A nurse practitioner may apply for certification in more than one specialty area of practice. A complete application and fee shall be required for each certificate.</p> <p>New York Guidance document provides definitions for the following "specialty practice areas:" Acute Care; Adult Health; College Health; Community Health; Family Health; Gerontology; Holistic Care; Neonatology; Obstetrics and Gynecology; Oncology; Palliative Care; Pediatrics; Perinatology; Psychiatry; School Health; and Women's Health. The guidance further states that according to New York State Education Law Section 6902, a nurse practitioner diagnoses illnesses and physical conditions and performs therapeutic and corrective measure within a specialty area of practice in which the nurse practitioner is certified by the State Education Department.</p>
North Carolina	"Nurse Practitioner" or "NP" means a currently licensed registered nurse approved to perform medical acts consistent with the nurse's area of nurse practitioner academic educational preparation and national certification under an agreement with a licensed physician for ongoing supervision consultation, collaboration and evaluation of the medical acts performed.

	<p>"Approval to practice" means authorization by the Medical Board and the Board of Nursing for a nurse practitioner to perform medical acts within her or his area of educational preparation and certification under a collaborative practice agreement (CPA) with a licensed physician in accordance with this section.</p> <p>"National Credentialing Body" means one of the following credentialing bodies that offers certification and re-certification in the nurse practitioner's specialty area of practice: ANCC; AANP; AACN; NCC; and PNCB (abbreviated).</p>
North Dakota	<p>"Advanced practice registered nurse" means an individual who holds a current license to practice in this state as an advanced practice registered nurse within one of the roles of certified nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse anesthetist, a certified nurse midwife, or certified clinical nurse specialist, and who functions in one of the population foci as approved by the board.</p> <p>The published "Advanced Practice Certification Examinations Recognized by the ND Board of Nursing include: Family Nurse Practitioner; Adult-Gero Primary Care Nurse Practitioner; Adult-Gero Acute Care Nurse Practitioner; Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care; Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care; Neonatal; Women/Gender Specific HealthCare Nurse Practitioner.</p>
Oklahoma	<p>"Certified Nurse Practitioner: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse who performs in an expanded role in the deliver of health care: consistent with advanced educational preparation as a Certified Nurse Practitioner in an area of specialty; functions within the Certified Nurse Practitioner scope of practice for the selected area of specialization, and in accordance with the standard for Certified Nurse Practitioners as identified by the certifying body and approved by the Board.</p> <p>The application states that the applicant must hold a current national certification in the specialty area consistent with the educational preparation and by a national certifying body recognized by the Board. Successful completion of the educational program shall establish an academic preparation consistent with the recognized certification examination in the specialty area. Applicant must access the list of certifications approved by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing to ensure your certification is listed. Only one certification may be selected per application</p> <p>In order to change or add an area of specialty and national certification, the applicant must meet initial requirements for licensure as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, which requires submission of a new application. The listed certifications for CNPS are: Family Nurse Practitioner (ANCC); Pediatric Primary Nurse Practitioner (ANCC); Primary Care Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNCB); Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NCC); Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner (NCC); Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (ANCC); Family Nurse Practitioner (AANPCB); Acute Care Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNCB); Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AANPCB); Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ANCC); Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (ANCC); Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AACN);(The list also identified retired certification examinations.)</p>

Oregon	<p>Nurse practitioner scope of practice. Within his or her specialty, the nurse practitioner is responsible for managing health problems encountered by the client and is accountable for health outcomes.</p> <p>The defined scope of practice is incorporated into the following specialty categories and further delineates the population served: (A definition followed each specialty title) Acute Care Nurse Practitioner; Adult Nurse Practitioner: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner; Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner; Family Nurse Practitioner; Geriatric Nurse Practitioner; Neonatal Nurse Practitioner; Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (this was changed in 2013 to primary care); Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care; Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.</p>
Pennsylvania	<p>A CRNP shall undertake a specific practice or procedure only if the CRNP has the necessary knowledge, preparation, experience and competency to properly execute the practice or procedure and the practice is within the scope of the CRNP's specialty and consistent with the CRNP's collaborative agreement.</p> <p>Within the CRNP application, the applicant is directed to select "ONE" specialty per application. The specialty choices are: Acute Care; Adult-Gerontology Acute Care; Advanced Oncology; Neonatal; Pediatric Primary care; Adult; Adult-Gerontology Primary Care: Family; Pediatric Acute Care; Women's Health Care; Adult Acute Care; Adult Psychiatric-Mental Health; Gerontology; Psychiatric-Mental Health.</p>
Rhode Island	<p>An applicant for initial licensure as an APRN shall: Be currently certified by a national certifying body recognized by the board of nursing in the APRN role and population foci appropriate to educational preparation.</p> <p>"Population foci" means focus on the patient population. Population focus shall include: Family/Individual across the lifespan; Adult-gerontology; Neonatal; Pediatrics; Women's Health/gender related; and Psychiatric/mental health.</p>
South Carolina	<p>"Advanced Practice Registered Nurse" means a registered nurse who is prepared for an advanced practice registered nursing role by virtue of an additional knowledge and skills gained through an advanced formal education program of nursing in a specialty area that is approved by the board. The categories of APRN are nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, clinical nurse specialist, and certified registered nurse anesthetist.</p> <p>An advanced practice registered nurse shall hold a doctorate, a post-nursing master's certificate, or a minimum of a master's degree that includes advanced education composed of didactic and supervised clinical practice in a specific area of advanced practice registered nursing.</p> <p>An advanced practice registered nurse applicant shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant has declared a specialty area of nursing practice and the specialty title to be used must be the title which is granted by the board-approved credentialing organization or the title of the specialty area of nursing in which the nurse has received advanced educational preparation. An APRN is subject, at all times, to the scope and standards of practice established by the board-approved credentialing organization</p>

	<p>representing the specialty area of practice and shall function within the scope of practice of this chapter and must not be in violation of Chapter 47.</p> <p>The South Carolina Board of Nursing published a position statement that provides the "Recommended Age Parameters for the APRN Practicing in South Caroline" for purposes of maintaining "consistency across the variety of specialty advanced practices..." These are associated with specialties that include: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner; Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner; Adult; Women's Heath/OB/GYN Practitioner; Acute Care Nurse Practitioner; Acute Care Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner; Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner; Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.</p>
South Dakota	<p>Scope of certified nurse practitioner practice. In addition to the registered nurse scope of practice and within the certified nurse practitioner role and population focus, a certified nurse practitioner may perform the following advanced practice registered nursing scope: conduct and advanced assessment; order and interpret diagnostic procedures; establish primary and differential diagnoses; prescribe, order, administer, and furnish therapeutic measure as follows (various listed). Application for licensure requires evidence that the applicant has passed a nationally recognized certification approved by the boards which is specific to the applicant's advanced practice registered nurse role and educational preparation, and maintains current certification.</p> <p>South Dakota published "APRN Practice Guidelines" that includes: APRNs as advanced clinicians are expected to practice with their licensed role, focus area, competence and experience. The scope of their practice, defined as tasks or activities that they may perform or provide, vary based on the individual licensee. Keep in mind that clinical experience and completion of continuing education alone has its limits to expansion of scope. Additional formal education and certification may be needed to add scope that is outside of APRN's licensed legal role or focus area. However, no matter what an APRN's role or focus area of practice, APRNs are expected to minimally complete a full health assessment, physician examination, and review of systems. While an APRN is not expected to diagnose outside of their area of practice and expertise, they are expected to identify abnormal findings as and appropriate collaborate and refer conditions outside of their expertise or area of practice.</p>
Tennessee	<p>Nurse Practitioner means a Tennessee licensed registered nurse with a master's degree or higher in a nursing specialty and has national specialty certification as a nurse practitioner. Certificate of fitness to prescribe requires a current national certification in the appropriate nursing specialty area; and graduation from a program conferring a master's or doctoral degree in nursing.</p>
Texas	<p>A registered nurse holding him or herself out to be an advanced practice nurse shall be authorized to practice and hold a title in the following categories: nurse practitioner in the following specialties: Acute Care Adult; Acute Care Pediatric; Adult; Family; Gerontological; Neonatal; Pediatric Psychiatric/Mental Health; Women's Health. Advanced practice registered nurse licensure is issued for the purpose of authorizing a registered nurse to practice in a specific advanced practice role and population-focus area. Advanced practice registered nurse applicants who wish to practice in more than one role and/or population focus area shall complete additional education in the desired area(s) of licensure in compliance with the educational requirements set forth in this chapter and meet all requirements for licensure in each additional role or population-focus area.</p>

	To apply for licensure for more than one title, the applicant shall submit a separate application and fee for each desired title. Additional licensure is required for those licensed advanced practice registered nurses seeking to include an additional: 1. Advanced practice role and population-focus area. 2. Population-focus area within the same advanced practice role, or 3. Advanced practice role within the same population focus area.
Utah	An APRN license applicant shall pass a national certification examination consistent with the applicant's educational specialty, pursuant to R156-31b-301e, and administered by one of the following credentialing bodies: the American Nurses Credentialing Center Certification; the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board; the American Association of Nurse Practitioners; the national Certification Corporation for the Obstetric, Gynecologic and Neonatal Nursing Specialties.
Vermont	<p>Population focus means that segment of the population defined by age group or health status to which an APRN provides professional services.</p> <p>The Board recognizes the following population focus areas: Family/individual across the life span; Adult; Neonatal; Pediatric; Geriatric; Woman's Health/Gender Related; and Psychiatric/Mental Health.</p> <p>The Board may accept certification by a certifying organization which assesses APRN core and role competencies across a minimum of one population focus. Practice guidelines must show that the APRN is practicing only in his or her certified role and population focus.</p>
Virginia	Advanced practice registered nurse means a registered nurse who has completed an advanced graduate-level education program in a specialty category of nursing and has passed a national certifying examination for that specialty. The board shall license nurse practitioners consistent with their specialty certification in the following categories (a two-digit suffix appears on licenses to designate the category): Adult/geriatric acute care nurse practitioner (01); Family nurse practitioner (02); Pediatric/primary care nurse practitioner (03); Adult/geriatric primary care nurse practitioner (07); Neonatal nurse practitioner (13); Women's Health nurse practitioner (14); Psychiatric nurse/ Mental health practitioner (17); and Pediatric/acute care nurse practitioner (18).
Washington	To be eligible for NP designation, the applicant must pass an examination from one of the following certifying bodies within the APRN's specialty designation. (The certification organizations and not the population foci are listed.)
West Virginia	Licensure requires verification of successful completion of the appropriate APRN national certification in the APRN role and population focus congruent with educational preparation.
Wisconsin	"Advanced practice nurse" means...the registered nurse is currently certified by a national certifying body approved by the board as a nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, certified registered nurse anesthetist or clinical nurse specialist. Prescribing limitations. The advanced practice nurse prescriber may issue only those prescription orders appropriate to the advanced practice nurse prescriber's areas of competence, as established by his or her education, training or experience.

Wyoming	<p>The APRN is subject at all times to the standards and scope of practice established by national professional organizations and/or accrediting agencies representing the various core, role and population focus areas for APRNs, and the NPA.</p> <p>The Board recognizes APRN core, role and population focus areas described in the scope of practice statements for APRNs issued by national professional organizations and/or accrediting agencies.</p> <p>Role and population focus of the APRN shall be declared, and the role and population focus to be utilized shall be the title(s) granted by nationally recognized professional organization(s) and/or accrediting agency(ies) or the title(s) of the role and population focus of nursing practice in which the APRN has received post graduate education preparation.</p> <p>In order to practice in one of the four roles and in a defined population, the APRN shall be recognized by the Board in that particular role with a population focus of advanced practice nursing.</p>
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