



# State Policy Fact Sheet: Arkansas

## Nurse Practice Act: A.C.A. § 17-87-102

### Regulatory Structure: Reduced Practice

Arkansas law constrains patient access to nurse practitioner (NP) care. NPs are required by law to maintain a regulated agreement with a physician for at least one element of NP practice. See Board of Nursing for details.

A.C.A. § 17-87-102

Arkansas NPs are prohibited from prescribing select medication outside of a regulated protocol agreement with a physician.

A.C.A. § 17-87-310

### Regulatory Agency

NP licensure and practice is regulated under the [Board of Nursing \(BON\)](#) and a joint regulatory body under the Department of Health which must, by law, include physician membership.

A.C.A. § 17-87-314

### Licensure Requirements

Requirements include a registered nurse license, a graduate degree in an NP role and national certification.

A.C.A. § 17-87-302

### Schedule II Controlled Substance Prescriptive Authority

NP prescriptive authority for Schedule II controlled substances is limited to hydrocodone combination products and opioids and stimulants under specific requirements. See full statute.

A.C.A. § 17-87-310

### Continuing Education (CE)\*

National certification CE requirements satisfy statute for license renewal. Five pharmacology hours each biennium for prescriptive authority. See BON for details.

Ark. Admin. Code 007.34.1-4-III

### Medical Staff Membership\*\*

Medical staff bylaws must include a provision for medical staff and other authorized staff membership.

Ark. Admin. Code 007.35.8-6

### Primary Care Providers

Arkansas NPs are defined as Primary Care Providers.

A.C.A. § 20-77-140

### Signature Recognition on Items of Patient Care

- Signature Recognition: Arkansas recognizes NP signatures on select items of patient care.  
A.C.A. § 17-80-120
- Physical Therapy: NPs are authorized to refer to physical therapy.  
Ark. Admin. Code 007.34.1-4-VII
- Parking Permits: NPs are authorized to provide proof of disability for parking permits.  
A.C.A. § 17-80-120
- DNR: NPs are presently authorized to sign Do Not Resuscitate orders.  
A.C.A. § 17-80-120
- Death Certificates: NPs are authorized to sign death certificates.  
A.C.A. § 17-80-120
- Arkansas Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment ([POLST](#)): NPs are not presently authorized to sign Arkansas' POLST form.  
A.C.A. § 20-6-303

\*Contact hours in specific topics may be required. Please contact your state Board of Nursing for current information.

\*\*Medical Staff Membership refers to governing and voting privileges and is not reflective of clinical or admitting privileges within institutions.

**DISCLAIMER:** The material contained in this fact sheet is offered as information only and not as practice, financial, accounting, legal or other professional advice. Correspondents must contact their own professional advisors for such advice.