



State Policy Fact Sheet: California

Nurse Practice Act: CA BUS & PROF 2700

Regulatory Structure: Restricted Practice

California law restricts nurse practitioner (NP) license and practice based on the type and setting of NP practice. Select settings and procedures require NPs to maintain a standardized protocol agreement for at least one element of NP practice.

CA BUS & PROF § 2725

Exemptions may apply, see the Board of Registered Nursing for more information.

CA BUS & PROF § 2837.103-104

Regulatory Agency

NP licensure is regulated exclusively by the [Board of Registered Nursing \(BRN\)](#).

CA BUS & PROF § 2701

Licensure Requirements

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

CA BUS & PROF § 2835.5

Continuing Education (CE)* ***

Thirty CE hours are required during every two-year period.

16 CCR § 1451

Malpractice Insurance

NPs participating in Medi-Cal and those in select settings are required to have malpractice insurance.

22 CCR § 51000.60 & CA BUS & PROF § 2837.103-104

Medical Staff Membership**

NPs are eligible to serve on medical staff and hospital committees in select settings, pursuant to a facility's bylaws.

CA BUS & PROF § 2282.5 & CA BUS & PROF § 2837.103-104

Primary Care Providers

NPs are defined as primary care providers.

22 CCR § 53810

Supervisory Agreement Ratio

One physician may enter into supervisory agreements with no more than four furnishing NPs.

CA BUS & PROF § 2836.1

Signature Recognition on Items of Patient Care

- Physical Therapy: NPs are authorized to refer to physical therapy as specified in supervisory protocols or to other appropriate healing arts providers as required by law.
CA BRN NPR-B-20 12/1998 & CA BUS & PROF § 2837.103-104
- Parking Permits: NPs are authorized to provide proof of disability for select parking permits.
CA VEHICLE § 22511.55
- DNR: NPs are not presently authorized to sign Do Not Resuscitate orders.
CA PROB 4780
- Death Certificates: NPs are authorized to sign death certificates beginning in July 2026.
CA HLTH & S § 102875
- California Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST): NPs are authorized to sign POLST forms.
CA PROB § 4780

*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.

***Exemptions may be available. Please consult full law for guidance.

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