



# State Policy Fact Sheet: District of Columbia

## Nurse Practice Act: DC ST § 3-1202.04

### Regulatory Structure: Full Practice

District of Columbia (D.C.) practice and licensure laws authorize nurse practitioners (NPs) to evaluate patients, diagnose and prescribe medications and therapeutic measures.

17 DCMR § 5999

### Regulatory Agency

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

DC ST § 3-1202.04

### Licensure Requirements

Requirements include a registered nurse license, completion of an NP program and national certification.

17 DCMR § 5903-5904

### Continuing Education (CE)\*

Fifteen CE hours are required every two years. See the BON for details.

17 DCMR § 5903

### Medical Staff Membership\*\*

Medical staff composition is determined by a facility's bylaws.

22-B DCMR § 2019

### Primary Care Providers

NPs are defined as primary care providers.

29 DCMR § 938

### Signature Recognition on Items of Patient Care

- Signature Recognition: D.C. recognizes NP signatures on items of patient care.  
DC ST § 3-1206.04
- Physical Therapy: NPs are authorized to refer to physical therapy.  
17 DCMR § 6799
- Parking Permits: NPs are authorized to provide proof of disability for parking permits.  
DC ST § 3-1206.04
- DNR: NPs are authorized to sign Do Not Resuscitate orders.  
DC ST § 21-2221.04
- Death Certificates: NPs are authorized to sign death certificates.  
DC ST § 3-1206.04
- D.C. Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST)/Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (**MOST**): NPs are authorized to sign the MOST form.  
DC ST § 21-2221.01

\*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.