



State Policy Fact Sheet: Iowa

Nurse Practice Act: I.C.A. § 152

Regulatory Structure: Full Practice

Iowa practice and licensure laws authorize nurse practitioners (NPs) to evaluate patients, diagnose and prescribe medications and therapeutic measures.

I.C.A. § 152.1 & IA ADC 481-621.1

Regulatory Agency

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

I.C.A. § 152.1

Licensure Requirements

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

IA ADC 481-621.2(152)

Continuing Education (CE)*

CE hours are required in accordance with national certification requirements.

IA ADC 481-619.2(272C)

Medical Staff Membership**

Hospitals shall not deny clinical privileges to NPs solely based on their license or the accredited school at which they received their training.

I.C.A. § 135B.7

Primary Care Providers

NPs are defined as primary care providers.

I.C.A. § 249A.4

Signature Recognition on Items of Patient Care

- Physical Therapy: NPs are authorized to refer to physical therapy.
IA ADC 481-621.1
- Parking Permits: NPs are authorized to provide proof of disability for disabled parking permits.
I.C.A. § 321L.2
- DNR: NPs are not presently authorized to sign Do Not Resuscitate orders.
I.C.A. § 144A.7A
- Death Certificates: NPs are authorized to sign death certificates.
I.C.A. § 144.26
- Iowa Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST)/Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST): NPs are authorized to sign Iowa's POST form.
I.C.A. § 144D.2

*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.

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