



State Policy Fact Sheet: Kentucky

Nurse Practice Act: KRS § 314.011

Regulatory Structure: Reduced Practice

Kentucky constrains nurse practitioner (NP) license and practice through regulated time-limited prescribing agreements with a physician and imposes specific career-long limitations on NP prescribing of controlled substances.

Qualifying Kentucky NPs must maintain two agreements with a physician as a condition of prescribing controlled and non-controlled substances unless exempt by the Board of Nursing under statute. All Kentucky NPs must abide by state law quantity limitations on quantity, conditions and setting limitations on select controlled substances. New licensees are subject to employer setting requirements during the first year of practice. See the BON for more information.

KRS § 314.042 & KRS § 314.011

Regulatory Agency

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

KRS § 314.042

Licensure Requirements

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

KRS § 314.042

Continuing Education (CE)*

14 CE hours or an equivalent method, which may include national certification, in addition to specific CE hours and content areas as required. See the BON for details.

201 KAR 20:215

Medical Staff Membership**

Medical staff is organized in accordance with a facility's bylaws.

902 KAR 20:016

Primary Care Providers

NPs are defined as primary care providers.

KRS § 314.198

Signature Recognition on Items of Patient Care

- Physical Therapy: NPs are not authorized by statute to refer patients for physical therapy. State law does not require a referral for patients to receive physical therapy services.
KRS 327.010
- Parking Permits: NPs are authorized to provide proof of disability for disabled parking permits and placards.
KRS § 186.042 and KRS § 189.456
- DNR: NPs are not presently authorized to sign Do Not Resuscitate orders.
KRS § 311.623
- Death Certificates: NPs are currently authorized to sign death certificates.
KRS § 213.076
- Kentucky Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST)/Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST): NPs are not presently authorized to sign the MOST form.
KRS § 311.6225

*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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