AANP American Association of NURSE PRACTITIONERS®

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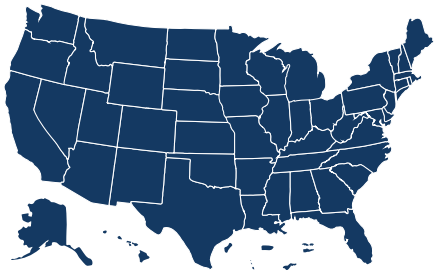

State Policy Fact Sheet: Massachusetts

Nurse Practice Act:
M.G.L.A. 112 § 74

Regulatory Structure: Full Practice
Massachusetts law authorizes nurse practitioners (NPs) to evaluate patients, diagnose and prescribe medications and therapeutic measures.
M.G.L.A. 112 § 80B

Massachusetts requires NPs to practice for two years with a qualifying supervising advanced practice registered nurse or physician. Exemptions for equivalent experience may be available.

See the Board of Registration in Nursing for more information.
Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 112, § 80E & 244 Mass. Code Regs. 4.07

Regulatory Agency
NP licensure is regulated exclusively by the Board of Registration in Nursing.
M.G.L.A. 112 § 74

Licensure Requirements
Requirements include a registered nurse license, a graduate degree in an NP role and national certification.
M.G.L.A. 112 § 80B

Continuing Education (CE)*
Fifteen CE hours are required every two years. Additional hours may be required for NPs who prescribe controlled substances.
244 CMR 5.02 & M.G.L.A. 94C § 18

Malpractice Insurance
NPs are required to have professional malpractice liability insurance.
244 CMR 4.09

Primary Care Providers
NPs are defined in law as primary care providers.
M.G.L.A. 176R § 4

Signature Recognition on Items of Patient Care
- Signature Recognition: Massachusetts law recognizes NP signatures to fulfill the requirements of law or rule relating to physical or mental health.
  M.G.L.A. 112 § 80I
- Physical Therapy: NPs are authorized to refer to physical therapy.
  M.G.L.A. 112 § 80I
- Parking Permits: NPs are authorized to provide proof of disability for disabled parking permits.
  540 CMR 17.02
- DNR: NPs are authorized to sign Do Not Resuscitate orders.
  M.G.L.A. 112 § 80I
- Massachusetts Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST)/Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST): NPs are authorized to sign the MOLST forms in accordance with the Nurse Practice Act.
  M.G.L. c. 19A, § 44 & 105 CMR 158.004

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

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.

AANP State Government Affairs
1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 540, Arlington, VA 22202 | 703-740-2529 | statepolicy@aanp.org